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TRAVELS

IN

SOUTHERN RUSSIA,

AND

THE CRIMEA;

THROUGH HUNGARY, WALLACHIA, & MOLDAVIA,

DURING THE YEAR 1837.

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BY

M. ANATOLE DE DEMIDOFF,

OF THE IMPERIAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. PETERSBURG;
OF THE ACADEMIES OF SCIENCE OF PARIS, MUNICH, STOCKHOLM, ETC. ETC.

ILLUSTRATED BY RAFFET.

DEDICATED TO H.I.M. NICHOLAS I., EMPEROR OF ALL THE RUSSIAS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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1853.

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TO

His Imperial Majesty

NICHOLAS THE FIRST,

EMPEROR OF ALL THE RUSSIAS.

SIRE,

Your Imperial Majesty deigned to approve of the tour which, in 1837, I undertook in Southern Russia: you honoured with your august protection an exploring expedition into the most recent and least known portion of your empire.

We now, Sire, after a preliminary labour jointly accomplished, publish the observations, reminiscences

and delineations resulting from this tour. In this book, the object of which is to convey a knowledge of the countries through which we travelled, each has contributed his own special remarks and investigations —each has brought forward his humble conquests in the field of science. This joint production, therefore, is destined to make known to all who love the advancement of human societies, the marvellous results achieved, and the bright hopes entertained by a people and a country, which, but half a century since, were known only by the names they had borne in ancient fable.

Who could compute for how many centuries these vast plains have beheld only the same succession of invasions, pillage and destruction, until the day when the great Empress Catherine, whose firm will succeeded that of Peter the Great, and preceded yours, Sire, proudly thrust back the confines of the empire to the shores of the Black Sea, astonished to find its waves beating on a land, over which peace and Christianity reigned? The genius which, to their advantage, took possession of these countries, bequeathed its plans to its glorious successors; but for a long interval they

remained uncompleted, for the torch of war was kindled throughout Europe; and so great were the terrors that seemed to threaten these hapless regions, that the dismayed people dared not establish themselves upon this fertile land, which they were not sure of rendering fruitful for their own advantage.

Meanwhile, the foundation of important establishments raised up a confidence in the new provinces, and testified to the price set by Russia upon its splendid conquest. The southern plains soon witnessed the arrival of colonists, who gathered about a powerful rampart of cities —Nicolaieff, Kherson, Odessa, and at a later period Kertch, springing with renewed youth from the ruins of Panticapæum, to command once more its two seas and the kingdom of Mithridates, once so formidable to a great people, now forming but a slight part of an immense empire.

From that period the young colonies became possessed with a creative spirit. While Nicolaieff launched from its extemporised dock-yards so large a fleet that these seas had never seen its equal, Odessa threw open its free ports, and attracted all the trade of the Mediterranean.

The astonished Bosphorus imagined itself once more in the glorious times of the Genoese settlement at Kaffa. Around this nucleus of intelligent activity, placed here by civilisation, as in a favourable centre, flowed fresh streams of life and enterprise, augmented by the marvellous productiveness of the soil, and the wise protection afforded to all, without distinction of race or religious worship.

But it is especially of late years, and since the glorious peace won by force of arms from Persia and the Ottoman empire, that the southern provinces, henceforward irrevocably incorporated with Russia, have felt the onward impulse imparted to their prosperity, and have risen to the stability and consistency of a great community, perfectly prepared to receive, and advantageously employ its share in the progress of the age.

The foundation of numerous and flourishing cities in the provinces composing New Russia, the progressive increase in agricultural produce of every kind, the large amount of carriage in the interior, increasing activity in the coasting trade, an appreciation of the beneficial effects of commerce among every class of inhabitants, the formidable condition of the imperial fleet, the regu-

larity and ease with which, in the remotest points, the springs of government are worked, and lastly—that spirit of wise and conservative progress which constitutes the true vitality of a people—such are the benefits, rapidly enumerated, which have hitherto been conferred upon New Russia, but a little while since a barbarous wilderness, overrun by hordes of lawless depredators.

There is, however, Sire, a necessity which is felt by nations no less than by individuals, when a certain amount of prosperity has rewarded the labours and anxieties which have filled a long period of life. This necessity is that of initiating for one's-self, of building on one's own soil, of surrounding one's-self with original creations, and freeing one's-self from the vexatious tribute hitherto paid to the intelligence of another: this necessity, in a word, is industry.

Effectively, industry, Sire, — and who knows this better than your Imperial Majesty? — is the free exercise of the faculties which Providence has bestowed upon us; it brings men and nations in closer relation —it binds together all separate interests into one— industry combines in one word order, labour, obedience,

authority, material prosperity, the strength of governments and of states. And as in sum, the manufacture of iron, the material of which ploughshares and swords are made, precedes all other branches of industry, it was quite natural that these provident minds should turn their attention, first of all, to the mineral riches of New Russia. Is Southern Russia to have, or not, an industry of its own? Such was the important question arising in the first instance. The discovery of certain signs indicating the presence of iron ore crowned the hopes of the first inquirers; but another investigation remained to be made, which would be decisive in the highest degree of the question to be resolved. If nature had refused to these vast wilds of the south the oak and the fir, it might reasonably be hoped that beneath the soil she had shown herself less grudging, and that thence might be drawn forth a supply of coal—that soul of the modern, material world, which constitutes, far more than gold, the wealth of nations. The character of the soil in some parts of the new provinces, not far from the Don and the Donetz, led to the anticipation of a considerable deposit:

moreover, in the same localities, at a period already remote, the presence of coal had been actually ascertained; and on it Peter the Great had founded hopes—he who seldom hoped in vain. "This mineral," he said, "will become a source of wealth to our descendants."

But the question had hitherto remained undecided. It was in the endeavour to solve it, that Your Imperial Majesty graciously allowed me to commence investigations which will not, under all circumstances, have proved fruitless.

In entering, Sire, upon a task so difficult, and requiring the most conscientious discharge, I was anxious to avail myself of all the light of science, and of all the assistance I could derive from the fine arts; for it appeared to me that an exploring expedition, such as I contemplated, ought to embrace the entire physical history of the country. At the same time I believed that I should thus be accomplishing a truly useful and patriotic work; and by the august approbation of Your Imperial Majesty, which is the living expression of the national mind, I am already rewarded for my exertions.

By a favour, which my heart thoroughly appreciates,

Your Majesty will allow us to dedicate to you this account of our tour, and these scientific observations, that nothing may be wanting to the honour of an enterprise, carried on, I may say, under the eyes of Your Majesty.

I am therefore emboldened to present this work to Your Imperial Majesty, as the result of continued studies, patient research, and obstinate labour—and I shall only be too happy, Sire, if the savans, the artists, and the men of letters, who have worthily laboured to the same end, and shared the same fatigues, should obtain, as well as myself, one of those glances which descend from the lofty throne of Peter the Great, and Catherine the First.

It is with the most profound respect, Sire, that I have the honour to be, Your Imperial Majesty's

Very humble, very devoted, and very faithful subject,

ANATOLE DE DEMIDOFF.

Paris, April 1839.

PREFACE.

PREVIOUS to undertaking the long voyage, of which we are about to give a narrative, we had prepared ourselves, by an especial course of study, for the Mineralogical and Geological researches which attracted us towards Southern Russia. The protection of the august personage who watches over the interests of the empire, and attends, with paternal solicitude, to the smallest details of his administration, was graciously extended to our enterprise—the first of the kind hitherto undertaken, with respect to the most recent and least known portion of the Russian empire.

We now publish, after a preliminary labour jointly accomplished, the observations, reminiscences and delineations resulting from this tour. In this book, the object of which is to convey a knowledge of the countries through which we have travelled, each has contributed his own special remarks and investigations—each has brought forward his humble conquests in the field of science. This joint production, therefore, is destined to make known to all who love the advancement of human societies, the marvellous results achieved, and the bright hopes entertained by a people and a country, which, but half a century since, were known only by the names they had borne in ancient fable.

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composing New Russia, the progressive increase in agricultural produce of every kind, the large amount of carriage in the interior, increasing activity in the coasting trade, an appreciation of the beneficial effects of commerce among every class of inhabitants, the formidable condition of the imperial fleet, the regularity and ease with which, in the remotest points, the springs of government are worked, and lastly—that spirit of wise and conservative progress which constitutes the true vitality of a people—such are the benefits, rapidly enumerated, which have hitherto been conferred upon New Russia, but a little while since a barbarous wilderness, overrun by hordes of lawless depredators.

There is, however, a necessity which is felt by nations no less than by individuals, when a certain amount of prosperity has rewarded the labours and anxieties which have filled a long period of life. This necessity is that of initiating for one's-self, of building on one's own soil, of surrounding one's-self with original creations, and freeing one's-self from the vexatious tribute hitherto paid to the intelligence of another: this necessity, in a word, is industry.

Effectively, industry, as it is understood in the present day, is the free exercise of the faculties which Providence has bestowed upon us; it brings men and nations in closer relation—it binds together all separate interests into one—industry combines in one word order, labour, obedience, authority, material prosperity, the strength of governments and of states. And as in sum, the manufacture of iron, the material of which ploughshares and swords are made, precedes all other branches of industry, it was quite natural that these provident minds should turn their attention, first of all, to the mineral riches of New Russia. Is Southern Russia to have, or not, an industry of its own? Such was the important question arising in the first instance. The discovery of certain signs indicating the presence of iron ore crowned the hopes of the first inquirers; but another investigation remained to be made, which would be decisive in the highest degree of the question to be resolved. If nature had

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But the question had hitherto remained undecided. It was in the endeavour to solve it, that we undertook to commence investigations which will not, under all circumstances, have proved fruitless.

In entering upon a task so difficult, and requiring the most conscientious discharge, I was anxious to avail myself of all the light of science, and of all the assistance I could derive from the fine arts; for it appeared to me that an exploring expedition, such as I contemplated, ought to embrace the entire physical history of the country. At the same time I believed that I should thus be accomplishing a truly useful and patriotic work; and with this conviction, I am already rewarded for my exertions.

I am emboldened to present this work to the public, as the result of continued studies, patient research, and obstinate labour—and I shall only be too happy, if the savans, the artists, and the men of letters, who have worthily laboured to the same end, and shared the same fatigues, should obtain, as well as myself, one of those glances of approval, which are a recompense and an encouragement.

Paris, April 1839. DEMIDOFF.

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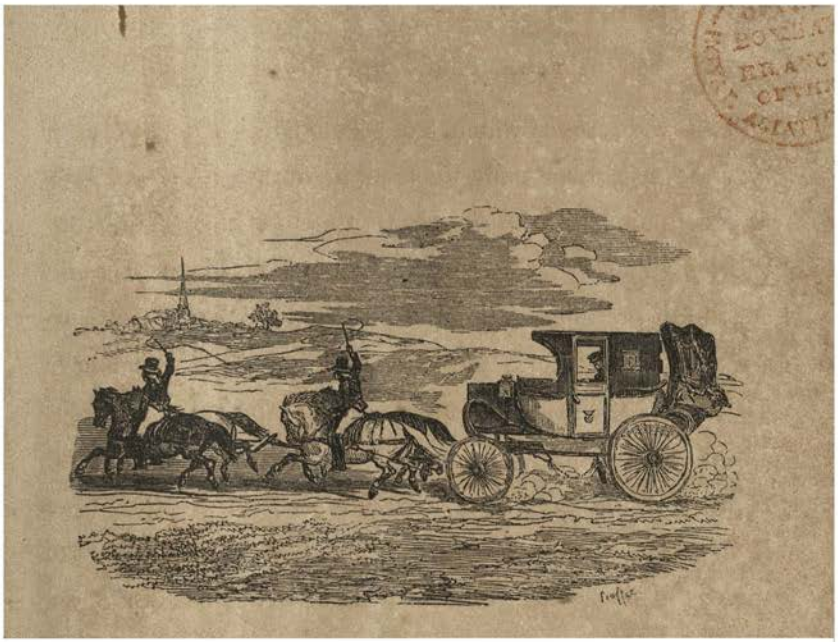


CHAPTER I.

FROM PARIS TO VIENNA.

THE project of a journey through the Southern Provinces of Russia, was one on which my mind had long been busy, impelled, as I was, by a sort of irresistible longing, to study, with all the care they deserve, regions which, after lying so long in a wild and barbarous condition, have now become amenable to the influence of government and civilisation.

This wide zone, which had so often been depopulated, and seemed perpetually doomed to devastation, can now already point with certainty to the future. Thanks to the last Treaties, the Provinces annexed to the Empire at the beginning of the present century, and now constituting the general Government of New Russia, have exchanged their former uncertain and precarious lot for a stable and uniform organisation, which time cannot fail to strengthen and consolidate. In the lapse of a few years, the traveller will have some difficulty to trace, among the inhabitants of New Russia, the distinctive characteristics of the numerous races which were left behind on the skirts of the large armed migrations from East to West.

From these wandering races have sprung at least twenty separate tribes, which are now day by day becoming extinct; and I was attracted by the idea of arriving just in time to seize the last tints of that broad historical colouring which is gradually fading away, and, at the same time, to study in what manner barbarism had been succeeded by civilisation, and the gloom of the past converted into more than hopeful anticipations of the future.

It was my full intention to apply to this enterprise all the strength of will, activity, and personal influence I might possess. I reckoned also, not without reason,

on the powerful support of a Government which knows how to appreciate all honourable projects.

The scheme of my journey had been long matured, when I had the honour of submitting it to His Majesty the Emperor, and soliciting his august approbation of this species of pilgrimage, in which each traveller was to explore a separate field of study and investigation. The most entire and generous assent was accorded to my project; and, far more than this, His Imperial Majesty, who takes a pleasure in encouraging merit of every kind, without reference to the country producing it, was pleased to grant to my companions, almost all of them foreigners, a mark of his especial protection, by express orders, forwarded to the official functionaries of the various Governments whose territories we were to explore. Thus, thanks to his exalted solicitude, which never deserted us, we met everywhere with the most cordial reception and the most complete co-operation.

The spring of 1837 had slipped rapidly by, amidst the preparatives and preliminary operations required for the expedition. Immediately that the navigation between Havre and St. Petersburgh became practicable, I dispatched to that capital a number of mining-overseers, with the boring instruments requisite for carrying on a mineralogical survey, the principal object

of our voyage. This first detachment consisted of M. Ayraud, a skilful superintendent of the works, and of four overseers of boring operations, with nine complete sets of apparatus. Their caravan, with its bulky equipments, exceeding eighty thousand pounds in weight, was placed under the direction of M. Paul Kolounoff, whose administrative abilities had been made known by a series of useful services.

After disembarking at Cronstadt, the expedition was to traverse the whole empire from North to South, and finally to erect their huts in the vicinity of the mouth of the Don; a long and laborious enterprise, as none will doubt, and accomplished with equal zeal and perseverance.

At the beginning of the month of May, the directors of this mineralogical survey quitted France, in their turn, and proceeded by the most direct route, namely, across central Germany and the provinces of Southern Russia, towards the territories of the Don, and the Donetz, where they were to find the first expedition already installed, and ready to act under their orders. This second division was composed of M. Le Play, a skilled engineer of the Royal Corps des Mineurs of France; M. de Lalanne, an engineer of the Corps des Ponts et Chaussées; and of M. Malinvaud, a civil engineer, formerly a student at the Ecole des Mineurs at St. Etienne; both the latter being charged, under

the direction of M. Le Play, with topographical and chemical investigations relative to the regions which were to be explored.

When it became necessary to organize the departure of the section which was to travel under my leadership, I reflected on the inconvenience and delay awaiting us, especially in Germany, if we remained in one body. I determined, therefore, that by the 6th of June, MM. Huot, Léveillé, and Rousseau should be despatched to Vienna, proceeding thither without unnecessary haste, and visiting on their road such towns and districts as were unknown to them. On reaching Vienna, they were to await my arrival, and join two other volunteer members of the expedition, MM. Adolphe du Ponceau and Achille de la Roche Pouchin, who had proposed to accompany me into Russia, and had fixed upon that city as the place of rendezvous.

It was not till the 14th of June that I quitted Paris, accompanied by MM. Raffet and Sainson. We proceeded in the direction of the department of La Meuse, where it was my intention to make a brief halt, in order to visit the fine iron-works of Abainville, which their proprietor, M. Muel Doublat, has, by a succession of improvements, brought to so high a degree of perfection. This first day of our journey was a magnificent one; the day was closing as we descended the lofty height which commands the picturesque valley of

the Marne, the town of Meaux, and the whole of the smiling landscape surrounding it, which was now gradually fading away, shrouded in the light mists of approaching night. My thoughts travelled back, not without some very natural emotion, to the companions of our long journey, who, at that moment, were approaching the destined goal of our expedition, each at different intervals; twenty-two persons were at that time scattered on various points of Europe, all animated with one intention, all ardently striving towards the same object.

Châlons, Vitry-le-Français, Long-champs, and St. Dizier were rapidly traversed on the 15th; the same evening we entered into the department of the Meuse. On leaving the monotonous plains of Champagne, the effect of a country already more diversified is quite refreshing. After emerging from Ligny, a small regularly-built town, quite identical in character with those of Lorraine, we had, in order to reach Abainville, to take a small road which winds along a succession of narrow meadows. Although the barrenness of the majority of the hills indicates a soil superficially poor, the numerous villages ensconced in the valleys, and the busy stir of the population on the roads, betoken all the activity which mining operations on a large scale excite on the southern frontier of the department of the Meuse.

The cars, which are used by hundreds for the

carriage of wood, coal, and iron, already call to mind, by their lightness of construction and frail harness, the vehicles of the German peasantry, and the lumbering gait of their drivers may well serve to complete the resemblance. On the other hand, all amid these remote valleys wears a sad and sombre aspect: the dun hue spread over the roads, the trees, the houses, and even the very inhabitants, gives to every thing an uniformly gloomy appearance. It would seem even as if the light itself, as it fell upon each dusky object, dwindled into a doubtful twilight. Everything, in fact, in these regions, bears the impress of the exclusive pursuit of iron manufacture, and the rough toil which accompanies it—a toil which knows of no relief—nor affords any interval for repose and joyful peace, as do the labours of the field, each new phase of which has its appropriate festival and day of prayer, whether to entreat the propitious regard of Heaven, or render thanks for benefits received: here every man is devoted to toil; every hut is a workshop.

The villages lying on the road between Ligny and Abainville, are pervaded with the same hue of coal; nor is a trace of luxury or worldly ornament anywhere to be seen. Even the erratic enterprise of the commercial traveller has shunned their walls, too naked and poverty-stricken to attract their magniloquent placards. The

burgh of Abainville, whose large iron-works constitute it the capital of these remote districts, has lagged behind in all progress of this kind; its low-built houses are barely lighted by a few dingy panes of glass, and the only ministers of luxury are the wheelwrights, who constitute the entire aristocracy of the place. A cordial and hospitable reception awaited us on our arrival; and the following morning we were engaged, in company with M. Muel, in inspecting, through all their details, the Iron-works of Abainville. The works are within ten minutes' walk from the burgh, the road following the course of the Ornain, which supplies the moving power to the machinery of the works. The buildings in which the operations are carried on, are grouped in the form of a vast parallelogram, closed at each extremity by a gate. On the eastern side one single building occupies the entire length; these are the industrial barracks, as it were, in which are quartered, together with their families, the four hundred workmen employed in the works. This building, only one story high, is surrounded by an immense balcony, communicating with the ground by a number of external staircases, disposed in symmetrical order. Opposite these habitations, swarming with inmates, stand the workshops, grouped without order, and surmounted by wide-spreading roofs and spire-like chimneys. Here, with the aid of the thousand arms of the machinery, and the workmen,

TYP. J. CLAYE.

FOUNDRY AT ABAINVILLE.

proceeds, without cessation, the manufacture of wrought and cast iron.

An entire day was devoted to following out the various interesting operations carried on at these splendid works. I remarked, with the vivid attention naturally to be expected from one who claims a legitimate cousinship with all the hammers and anvils of Russia, the results of all the new processes and improvements introduced by M. Muel into his establishment. On their side, my companions, to whom the spectacle was entirely new, remained absorbed in the contemplation of all the brilliant stages through which the ore passes ere it is reduced into bars of iron. Arrested at every step by some new explanation, they were chiefly fascinated by the marvellous effects of light, producing a succession of striking pictures; and many a workman, with grimy face and ivory-white teeth, smiled at their simple admiration of wonders, to him of daily occurrence.

The iron-works of Abainville deserve, on several grounds, the reputation they have earned. Two blast-furnaces are used for the production of cast iron; one is situated in the midst of the workshops, the other stands on the slope of a hill in the vicinity, and each of these furnaces produces two castings a day. The machinery employed in forging the iron is set in motion by the waters of the Ornain; and when these fail, a steam-

engine supplies their place. The ore with which the furnaces of Abainville are supplied, is procured at about three leagues from the village; the wood used as fuel, is obtained at a short distance, and the coal is brought from Sarrebruck.

It has already been stated that the total number of persons finding employment in this vast establishment, is four hundred; and that the whole of this population is lodged in one edifice, a portion of which is parcelled out into storehouses, and a school-room, maintained at the expense of the proprietor, in which children of both sexes are instructed. At nightfall the gates are closed, and the members of this little community bestow themselves, some to labour and some to sleep. But for the life and movement arising from these large centres of industry, Abainville and its environs would appear gloomy indeed; for the country itself has but few attractions. This extremity of the department of the Meuse presents a series of undulations, taking their rise from the western declivity of the plateaux which connect the group of the Ardennes with the lower chain of the Vosges. The Ornain, which waters the valley of Abainville, has its source in the vicinity of Gondrecourt, a small town of great antiquity. Beyond the valley, this modest stream takes a direction towards Bar, and shortly joins its waters with those of another rivulet, called the Saulx;

both then bear their tribute to the Marne, below Vitry-le-Français. Throughout this extent of territory there is but little vegetation beyond the immediate vicinity of the waters; the plateaux are, for the most part, barren, although it is probable, that at some distant period they were covered with forests. Be this as it may, the country certainly exhibits, in the constitution of its atmosphere, all the disadvantages arising from the absence of large masses of wood; and although, to our astonishment, we heard an engineer, a native of the place, maintain a contrary opinion, and attach slight importance to the effects of unforesting, as regards temperature, we are, nevertheless, satisfied that it is to the complete absence of vegetation over so wide an extent of country, that Abainville owes the severity and length of its winters.

The proprietor of the works has, however, taken some pains to adorn this solitude, and nature has wonderfully assisted his efforts. Out of an unwholesome and infectious marsh, endangering the health of the surrounding population, M. Muel has evoked a charming shrubbery, the young saplings in which have already attained a vigorous growth, and contribute to the embellishment of the country.

On Sunday, June 18, we quitted Abainville. At Domremy, the little village which once formed, as it were,

the portico of the Cathedral of Rheims, we visited the house formerly inhabited by Joan of Arc. The chamber in which the humble rustic girl dwelt, has nothing remarkable about it, save the official inscriptions engraved on tablets of stone or metal; and, as though the useless information thus furnished were not enough, a common-place register is kept open to receive the names of the visitors, and their more or less poetical observations. On an open space, planted round with trees, in front of this modest dwelling, a species of cenotaph has been erected, standing on four pillars, and sheltering a poorly-executed bust of the heroine insulted by Voltaire, and whose noble image a royal princess, so early snatched away, has re-produced, with simple and touching inspiration. Popular gratitude has not been backward, however, in honouring this chaste glory: the village folk have built a *cabaret* in honour of Joan of Arc; or at least it would seem so, by the painted sign swinging over the door, which bears the inscription, "*à la Pucelle!*" A little scrutiny, however, of this work of art, will reveal the metamorphosis—rather ingenious than skilful—whereby Napoleon the Great has been transformed into the Maid of Vaucouleurs. The white charger, the green coat, the epaulettes and riding boots, have been judiciously retained in the picture. A plumed helmet, instead of the memorable little hat, and a pair

of gloves, à la Crispin, are the only changes the artist has deemed indispensable to conciliate the exigencies of sex and chronology.

After passing through Neufchâteau and Mirecourt, two picturesque sites, we rested an hour at the Château de Marinville, an old edifice, with no other recommendation than its dilapidated antiquity.

At Epinal we were greeted by the gracious hospitality of M. Doublat, Receiver General of the Departement des Vosges. The morning we spent in visiting the magnificent garden laid out by M. Doublat, was indeed an agreeable one. The designer of this garden has taken advantage of an abrupt chain of rocks, on which stands a fine looking group of ruins, and in this felicitous locality he has planted a garden, or rather an immense picturesque park, in which all the resources of art and horticultural science are combined. A diversified display of trees and plants, numerous farm-buildings, built in the best taste, a charming dairy, richly stocked conservatories, natural dales, precipices as old as the hills, have been grouped together with marvellous skill in this enchanting spot, where every available feature of the natural landscape has been adopted with the most refined taste. From the terraces which overhang the town, the delighted gaze embraces a vast and magnificent prospect. A communication between this

splendid garden and the house of its proprietor is established by means of an elegant staircase, enclosed within a tower of Chinese architecture, rising side by side with a vertical rock eighty feet in height. By this means, the fortunate owner of these beautiful grounds, bestowing himself by turns on his garden and his daily avocations, finds himself transported in a few minutes in the midst of the most charming and rural retreat, beneath the shade of trees, whose growth he has watched for thirty years.

Not to be accused of flattery, however, it must be confessed that Epinal is by no means a pretty town, although most picturesquely situated in the midst of heights which command it on every side. The surrounding landscape is richly toned: the flat red roofs, the broad and well defined hue of the various buildings, the rushing waters of the Moselle, all contribute to form a number of charming prospects. The streets of Epinal are ill-paved: at the foot of the houses, however, there is a line of flagstones more practicable than the road itself. The outward character of this mountain town exhibits already something of the habits of German life. The cleanliness of the houses, the stoves by which they are warmed, the stout servant girls with bare arms, besieging the fountains with their buckets of white deal, which they afterwards carry,

balanced upon their heads, and the teams of large oxen toiling through the streets, or halting and ruminating on the public places—all this indicates that the Rhine and Germany are not far distant.

Epinal possesses a church, the date of whose structure is as far back as the eleventh century; the interior of this monument is of a severe style, very rare in the religious edifices of this part of France. Among a number of pictures hanging beneath its gloomy arches, we recognised a copy of the "Miracle of St. Hubert," by that old and quaint master, Holbein, copies of which are so abundant in the old German cities.

On the 20th of June, at an early hour, we left Epinal, directing our course towards the Vosges. This long chain of mountains, which commence a little to the south of Mayence, stretches almost parallel with the Rhine, and sinks down towards Belfort, throwing out a secondary branch towards the west. Several rivers, such as the Sarre, the Meurthe, the Moselle, and the Meuse, take their rise on the northern flank of the Vosges, and flow towards the north. The road we were to take, which leads directly to Strasbourg, intersects the chain at an angle sufficiently acute to render the ascent to its summit, by means of numerous windings, an easy task; and the admiration is thus sustained by a succession of magnificent points of view. This route, rarely followed

by travellers, who take that by Saverne in preference, presents a sort of less common-place reflex of the beauties which the tourist seeks in Switzerland. Every thing here conspires to diversify and adorn the prospect: a sky admirably suited to extend the range of vision, a series, rising in successive planes, of those rounded summits which, in the Vosges, are specially designated *Ballons*, mountains covered with a rich and vigorous vegetation, cool and shadowy valleys, wooden buildings scattered here and there over the dark-hued verdure, streams of living waters flowing on every side, complete the similitude with the mountain scenery of Switzerland.

In respect of downright earnest mountains, commend me to the Vosges, that splendid rampart rising between two plains. At noon we had reached the highest point of our ascent, commanding an equal view of Lorraine and of Alsace, whose rich fields shone in the distance. The *Ballon* of Alsace, which is the most remarkable height in the neighbourhood, is not less than 1,250 metres high; and to judge by comparison, we were ourselves at a height of some thousand metres. On either declivity of the mountain, numerous villages are met with, denoting the fertility of the soil. The mountain streams in their downward course irrigate and fertilise all these villages. The little town of Gemaingoutte, St. Dié, and St. Marie-aux-Mines, all bustling with activity, were rapidly

traversed by us, the busy inhabitants paying but little heed to our noisy equipage.

Ere long, the aspect of the scene around us became entirely changed, and our carriages rolled over the smooth level of the plain of Alsace, through a road which resembled rather a garden walk, laid out through the most smiling meadows. We journeyed along this admirable road in the midst of a crowd of active and busy travellers, walking, riding on horseback, or in cars, diligences, post-chaises, and every variety of equipage. Dust, tobacco, and beer—a beverage so well adapted to quench the harmless thirst of the German—simultaneously engaged the attention of the traveller, who scrupulously makes a point of halting at every hostelry on the way-side.

Every thing in these regions denotes the point of contact between two important communities; every thing bears the mark of that international traffic which constitutes the life and prosperity of the border districts between two nations of equal power and industry. The department of the Lower Rhine, in the evidences of comfort and prosperity which it presents, calls to mind the rich counties of England. On all sides one is surrounded by the magnificent results of a careful cultivation, and the fields bear the appearance rather of extensive kitchen gardens. Men and women,

— both equally robust — and even the children, bring to the labours of the field an equal degree of activity; while in the smallest village may be heard the rumbling of machinery, the roaring of furnaces, the clanging of hammers, and every variety of din distinctive of manufacturing industry.

Of all the provinces of France, Alsace has distinguished itself the most triumphantly in the application of machinery to manufactures. In these favoured departments, where the riches of the soil are united with those of the industrial arts, the employment of machinery has proved an advantage to agriculture, by returning to it the manual labour which constitutes its strength: this will become the case whenever a proper understanding of their interests shall have initiated the masses into the simplest doctrines of political economy. No labourer will then be allowed to complain of the multifold processes which diminish the demand for manual labour, so long as on the soil which he inhabits there remains a single acre of uncultivated moor-land, or unwholesome marsh, or one mile of impracticable road.

It is full time the progress of agriculture were in proportion to that of industry. Manufactures are the province of machinery; the tillage of the land, that of man's labour. The more you manufacture, by dimin-

ishing manual labour, through those ingenious contrivances of which steam is the moving power, the more hands you will set at liberty to be devoted to agriculture, to whose prosperity they are so precious. As regards those states the population of which is thinly scattered, and inferior to what it should be for the extent of surface occupied, the question does not even admit of discussion. The introduction of machinery, and of all artificial means of production, considered in this point of view, appears fraught with immense advantages.

At Schelestadt we took horses beyond the glacis, at a post-house of unusual magnificence; and a splendid team took us rapidly over the ground which lay between us and Strasbourg. It was at the hour when the inhabitants of the villages were returning to their homes, grouped together upon large cars, and forming, by their attitudes and picturesque costumes, a succession of pictures full of real grace and play of colour. Not a man was on foot, nor a woman whose attire bore the least trace of poverty. A white chemise hanging loosely over the arms, a red boddice trimmed with broad ribbons of black velvet, a short petticoat, a straw hat of vast circumference shading the strongly-marked features of the wearer, and allowing a few flaxen tresses to escape—such is the costume of the village girls in the environs of Strasbourg;

and it is one which well becomes the style of robust and somewhat masculine beauty which distinguishes them.

To see Strasbourg, were it only for a moment, and not to halt before its beautiful cathedral, would be to lose one of the keenest enjoyments to be procured by the contemplation of those masterpieces of architecture which sum up, as it were, the history of many centuries. Those even who have previously beheld this splendid basilic cannot but be astonished, even on a second visit, by the grandeur of the interior, the perfect workmanship of the painted windows, and the endless prolongation of that dim religious light which gradually dwindles through the gloom of those immense arches. How deep the silence! How majestic the scene! How solemn this assemblage of so many centuries of Christianity!

When we were delivered from the hands of the custom-house officers, and had crossed the bridge of Kehl, we took the road to Baden, a cheerful road, striking through a pretty plain, which is bounded on the west by the Rhine, and on the east by the mountains of the Black Forest. This long chain skirts the borders of the Rhine, and running parallel with the Vosges, forms a magnificent basin, through which the great stream flows. Nothing can be fresher-looking, prettier, or more lively, than the villages on either side of this road. It is especially

here that the indolent ease of the German breaks out in all its fresh simplicity: plain wooden houses, kept carefully in order, with window panes as clear as crystal; small windows wreathed round with blooming roses; and little gardens enclosed in hedges of wild rose-trees;—such are their villages, the mere sight of which conveys a feeling of repose. There is one drawback, however, about this picturesque country with its picturesque inhabitants—it is here we first have a taste of long stages and slow travelling. But of what use is it to complain? Where is the traveller who in this country, so much travelled over, can boast of ever having beguiled a Baden post-boy, with immovable yellow jacket and voiceless horn, from his native slowness? At last, however, Baden is reached, and we find, not without some trouble, suitable lodgings for our short stay.

The fashionable and frivolous company of bored invalids, who usually assemble about this time at the waters, had as yet only sent a few of its representatives for the present year. I had, however, only made this digression from our direct route, in order to afford my companions the pleasure of making acquaintance with one of the prettiest little nooks in the world, where one may come and breathe the summer air, at a time when all towns have become so many uninhabitable ovens. The delightful country about Baden, and its quiet walks, literally trans-

ported our artists; but they evinced far less enthusiasm for the peculiar mode of life adopted at the waters, and the somewhat monotonous pleasures to which fashion every year condemns us. Their criticisms on this head amounted to actual grumbling. "Who can understand," said they, "how persons who possess in London, Paris or St. Petersburgh, spacious mansions—too confined, nevertheless, for their luxurious notions—can resign themselves to come and spend whole months in these little boxes of rooms, leading this barrack and corridor life, with the additional enjoyment of a frightful smell of paint, which renews its charms every spring, in honour of each new batch of visitors?" And worse still, if you happen to take an airing in the street of the little town, while you admire its elegant houses, like the stage-houses at the *Opera Comique*, observe, behind their innocent-looking windows, adorned with roses, those pale yet piquant faces of women, with their veiled eyes, and sickly, weary smile—tender victims of last winter's balls and festivals! For in very truth, at the end of a week this so-called pleasure is exhausted, and *ennui* alone remains. The fact is, the most essential of all good things is wanting, the "home, sweet home" of the English, who understand comfort so well. And then, may I ask, what feeling in common, what intimacy can exist, amidst this heterogenous assembly of all nations?

How can any one avoid being utterly bewildered by this extraordinary miscellaneous assembly of all the idle people in Europe? But let them alone: at the first breath of autumn every one will have returned to their respective place in the world; and those eternal friendships, struck up by the side of a hot-spring, will fail to elicit the faintest bow, or the slightest token of remembrance. The public establishment of the baths failed equally to obtain the unrestricted admiration of my companions. They admired the fine dimensions of the *salons*, but inveighed against the smallness of the gardens, and the vulgarity of that little avenue of chesnut-trees which overshadow a row of shops, worthy at the utmost of a village fair;—a fashionable walk, nevertheless, where many bygone celebrities have gently elbowed each other. If the art of Chabert found favour with my good-natured censors, they made up for it by their indignation when the evening brought round the tables of the play-room an eager and passion-led crowd, who, under a mask of uniform coldness, came there to squander their gold, wear out their lives, and breathe the smoky exhalations of the lamps, at the very time when the moon shed its light over all the bowers of Baden; when the coolness and stillness of the air suggested a solitary ramble, far from the dust of the public garden. But even the play was languid that year: Baden was in the

expectation of a great event for the year 1838, being neither more nor less than the installation of a company which was to plant upon the German soil the farming system for gaming houses, and to bring away from France all the old worn-out roulette balls, the blunted rakes, and dog's-eared dice-boxes—in a word, the whole frightful paraphernalia of the gambling system, which had been driven out of France, and was coming, like any other invalid, to patch up its shattered constitution at Baden, and other such like places.

It is unnecessary to say that we went for a walk up to the old castle, and that we climbed up to the highest summit of the ruins of doubtful antiquity which crown the mountain. Here we remained some time, contemplating the magnificent panorama which unfolds itself in the distance. Just as we were emerging from the last arch of the castle, two snakes, entwined one with the other, and fighting with fierce obstinacy, rolled at our feet. The ancients would have drawn from this occurrence some presage with respect to the long journey that lay before us; whereas we simply put an end to the combat by the death of the two reptiles, who, although bruised and wounded by their fall, still kept a firm grip of each other.

The next day, at grey morn, we were passing through Rastadt, a clean, spacious, but deserted town, where

the sound of a coach awakes at once the echoes and the inhabitants, the one not less astonished than the other. While they were changing our horses, Raffet had time enough to make a detailed drawing of the full uniform worn by that fine body, the Baden infantry, quartered in the vicinity of the post-house, and who lent themselves with much complaisance to the artist's wishes. Raffet is active, and takes advantage of the smallest accidents on the road; his hand is always ready, his pencil ever pointed, and he is only eager for a pretext to throw upon paper all the incidents of the journey. Not a little did he rejoice over the slowness of the Baden postillions, who seemed to enter marvellously into his feelings; and every time the wretched postillion kept us a quarter of an hour at least, at each change of horses, Raffet would exclaim, "That's the way to travel post!" We felt some regret at not having paid a visit to the castle, in which it is said certain relics of the congress which rendered Rastadt famous are preserved; but at so early an hour, it is very improbable that we should have found a cicerone to conduct us thither without a considerable loss of time.

From Rastadt we came to Carlsruhe. Carlsruhe is one of the few towns which have suddenly arisen according to a fixed plan, and as it were like one building. The town sprang, ready built and completed, from a whim

of the Duke of Baden, who reigned in the last century. As it is almost impossible to remain two hours in this model capital without hearing some allusion to its mysterious origin, it will be better, I think, to begin at once by relating the legend which describes the history of its foundation. Once upon a time, then, about a hundred years ago, a Grand Duke of Baden who had some cause of displeasure, they say, against the people of Durlach, his usual residence, had come to enjoy the pastime of the chase amidst the magnificent forests by which the whole surrounding country was covered. After a short time, the prince found himself separated from his suite, and favoured by the shade and the stillness, he laid himself down to sleep in a retired spot, as any good prince out a-hunting has a right to do. All of a sudden, our prince found himself the hero of a wonderful dream: he beheld rising, ready built, from the depths of the yawning earth, a noble and spacious city; it covered one half of a large circular space; and as all the streets ran from the centre to the circumference, the good duke, placed in the middle, as it were, on the top of a turret, could carry his astonished glance into every corner of this fan of masonry. Scarcely had this mysterious town fairly shown itself in all its detail, when the suite of hunters woke up the sleeping prince; but he remembered the dream, and all its wonders; and as

he was a rich prince as well as a good prince, he resolved that he would build in that same place, if it were possible, a realisation of the beautiful dream which had so delighted him. As the prince said, so he did; witness this town, which is a perfect fan in shape, and the observatory, which commands a view of every thing. The second half of this vast circumference is occupied by a fine park, where the stags and the deer roam at liberty, that they may occasionally be hunted through the ancient forests of the neighbourhood. If, however, in spite of so beautiful a plan, its extreme cleanliness, and the magnificent architecture of its edifices, Carlsruhe appear somewhat cold and dull, the fault is with the founder, who failed to complete his poetical inspiration, and handed over to the most prudent and sober people in Europe his fantastic town, the offspring of a dream of Eastern enchantment. Nevertheless, this graceful capital is remarkable for its fine monuments and useful institutions, the progress of which attest the reign and enlightened views of the excellent prince who governs the Grand Duchy.

Our stay at Carlsruhe did not exceed one hour, and during that time I received a visit from the kind and courteous Baron von Haber, who overwhelmed me with politeness; he had seen and given welcome to the mineralogical section of our expedition, of which M. Le Play

was the guide and chief. These gentlemen, full of health and ardour, had only complained of what they termed infinitely too slow locomotion.

On leaving the territory of Baden, a little above Durlach, to enter the kingdom of Wurtemburg, we had no Custom-house searching to undergo—that insupportable interval of time, during which, one falls a prey to an army of idle fellows. Travellers, and the trading community at large, are indebted for this real benefit to the wise measures which all the States of Germany, including Prussia and Bavaria, have adopted, by common consent. The governments of these two kingdoms, taking into consideration the respective positon of so many fractions of one fatherland, speaking the same tongue, and possessing to a certain extent the same interests, came to an agreement for the suppression of the thousand Custom-house barriers which impeded commercial intercourse, and for the formation of a confederation, within the limits of which the transit of merchandise should suffer no impediment. According to this convention, which is at the same time liberal and conservative in its principles, commercial traffic may proceed with all freedom from the banks of the Rhine to the frontier of Austria, and to the furthest limits of Prussia. In the same measure, as it would be imprudent to overthrow the protective barriers of industry

between two great nations, rivals in manufactures, is it an act of wisdom and common sense to extend the liberty of commercial traffic in small states of inferior productive power. To surround the latter by a cordon of Custom-houses, is to imprison the consumer to the great detriment of the neighbours' products; and the general welfare can only suffer from such a course. Let us add, that travellers in haste to reach their journey's end—and they all are—are greatly benefited by such a system.

The natural boundary between the Grand Duchy and the kingdom of Wurtemburg, is the chain of the Black Forest, the last declivities of which, dwindling away to the north-east, not far from Durlach, we had just crossed; the frontier line, indeed, diverges but little from the eastern portion of these mountains. The first aspect of Wurtemburg is rendered especially remarkable by the beauty of the landscape, to which this position lends a peculiar air of richness.

If I do not mention every place through which we passed, it is in order not to swell unnecessarily the list of burghs and villages with names not very easy to pronounce. Certainly the rapidity of our progress was not such but we had sufficient time thoroughly to investigate their pronunciation and orthography. Unfortunately, too, the hay-making season coincided everywhere with our appearance; and at each stage we

were obliged to wait for horses, which were slowly brought from their peaceful hay-carts, to be no less slowly harnessed to our carriages. If, occasionally, our servants grew impatient, and seized the harness, launching a few epithets at the postillions, they would start back, frightened at this unwonted vivacity, and stand aloof, shaking their heads with an expression of despair. At Illengen, among the rest, we had to wait nearly two hours in the midst of a crowd of these eternal idlers, gathered motionless and agape around our carriages. At last, in the glooming of a splendid evening, through a charming country, and fanned by a breeze laden with the perfume of new-mown hay, we made our way towards Stuttgardt, conversing on such softly melancholy subjects as are inspired by a sky bespangled with stars, and the spectacle of nature bathed in calmness and repose. Ere night-fall we had beheld in the distance Ludwigsberg, and its military prison, which stands on a hill in the midst of a most fertile country—a peaceful retreat, if the captives are allowed to breathe the pure air of the mountain, and to gaze on the broad landscape around. At eleven in the evening, a miserable supper, detestable beds, and a gloomy lodging, awaited us at Strasbourg.

While the next day I was making a number of visits, incumbent upon me, M.M. Sainson and Raffet took a ramble through the capital. Stuttgardt, as the reader

knows, is divided into two cities; the most modern is remarkable for the beauty of its edifices, the number of its new buildings, and the width and cleanliness of its streets. The lower town, on the contrary, is irregular, gloomy, and encumbered with houses of such a height, that those who live in the lower stories of them are frequently deprived both of air and light. This ancient portion of the town presents still a great number of houses, rendered precious by their architectural detail, in the style of the middle ages; in the majority of the cross-ways are to be seen bas-reliefs, or little statues, ornamenting the angles, and which almost invariably represent knights clad in complete armour—a subject extremely in vogue throughout the country; for we had already observed several, of a fine character, serving as ornaments to the fountains in the villages of Wurtemburg. A mare with her foal, is also frequently found sculptured on both ancient and modern public monuments of the olden time. A population of thirty-two thousand inhabitants throngs in the narrow lanes of the lower town, and towards the avenues of the market, which is held on a large open space, and stretches into the adjacent streets. This afflux of people presented no peculiar characteristics of which our painter could avail himself—and, in fact, the national costume is in no way remarkable. The army of Wurtemburg, praised for its organisation, and the

officers of which are held in high esteem, employed what little leisure our rapid transit allowed Raffet; and he was at no loss for uniforms in the vicinity of the king's palace. This palace is in an imposing style of architecture, and is situated on an esplanade symmetrically planted with trees. It is, besides, surrounded by magnificent gardens, which unfortunately none of us had time to visit: scarcely, indeed, could we afford a superficial glance at this capital, which is deserving, on several accounts, of a special visit. We returned to our carriages in order to reach Munich as quickly as possible. The time pressed, for already we were considerably behind hand.

The country stretching to the south-east of Stuttgardt is truly admirable; the road which took us to Ulm, traverses it almost from end to end; the land, which is favourably exposed, is well suited for agriculture, and on all sides were to be seen the evidences of a plentiful harvest. After passing several small towns, such as Esslingen and Goppingen, the country becomes more varied, and the soil slightly hilly. Towards evening, some difference in the speed, or rather slowness of the relays, had separated our equipages; and it was only singly, and one after the other, that we reached Geislingen, a burgh of considerable importance, picturesquely situated in the bosom of a

narrow valley, where it contributes to form a charming landscape. With its lofty houses, their protruding beams, painted red, and huge gables bristling above streets just sufficiently tortuous to produce a thousand striking effects, Geislingen is a perfect and still breathing episode of the feudal ages; and it is even more than probable that the characteristic costumes in which its inhabitants appeared carelessly grouped about their doors of carved wood, studded with huge nails, have suffered no appreciable change for the last two centuries. As it was Saturday evening, we met more than one troop of the honest children of Israel, who, in Wurtemburg, apparently, are not so exclusively devoted to the interests of trade as elsewhere, and occasionally indulge, at all risks, in a jolly and riotous drunken bout. That which is particularly remarkable in Geislingen, is the prodigious quantity of articles manufactured in bone, forming an important object of traffic with the women, and a source of no little importunity to the traveller. No sooner does a carriage draw up in the streets, than it is invaded and taken by storm by these intrepid amazons, who squall in every known tongue the same insupportable petition, and of whom it is impossible to be rid, even at the cost of purchasing handfulls of their inexhaustible wares.

Between this pretty town and the Danube rises an

important branch of the chain which geographers have named the Suabian Alps; we climbed its winding acclivities with a degree of slowness, which, as night advanced, was only too favourable to sleep. It was not till two o'clock in the morning, by a splendid moonlight, that we were enabled to judge of the physiognomy of the town of Ulm. If we may trust to appearance, and were not deceived by the poetical grandeur which so often transfigures objects seen through the dewy gleams of the moon, this ancient town must be of highly curious interest to the artist. From its broad resounding streets, the irregular gables rose in black outline against the sky, and threw their sharply defined shadows against the opposite walls. Here and there a gothic tower, or a tall church, bathed in a blueish grey tint, stood in contrast with the gleaming house fronts, shining with varnish, and sparkling with windows, which in German towns are always so bright; but all this scene soon vanished, and in a few moments we were rolling once more through a rich open country, watered by the Danube, the proximity of which imbued the air with a cool moisture.

Daylight found us on the Bavarian territory. Augsburg is doubtless the town of all Germany in which a stay would afford the most interest, so powerfully does it challenge the curiosity of the traveller; but those who,

like us, confine themselves to a stroll through its irregular streets, and gaze about at its tall houses ornamented with frescoes, must refrain from any description of its contents; for whatever observations they might be in a position to make have already become confused, and almost indistinct, by the time the next stage is reached. Nothing is left, then, for those who aim at describing every thing, but the resource of geographical dictionaries—very useful books, no doubt, but to which it is more simple to refer the reader.

As we approach Munich, a considerable traffic of wayfarers, and vehicles of every description, announces the vicinity of a capital; and, when one is fairly within its walls, nothing is found to belie the deserved rank which this great and beautiful city occupies in the kingdom of Bavaria. The traveller, sated with the historical riches which Augsburg and Nuremberg owe to the middle ages, reposes with pleasure from this source of admiration, and contemplates the results of a modern school of art, which has judiciously appropriated the severer beauties of the Greek style. There are few towns in the world in which architecture stands in greater honour than in the capital of Bavaria—and assuredly none in which rich collections of objects of art, brought together with a true feeling for the beautiful, are preserved with such costly care, and so spaciously

bestowed in vast edifices expressly constructed for, and appropriated (a rare circumstance) to, this special purpose. Accordingly, we are not to be astonished at the number of new and magnificent buildings with which this city has been enriched within the last twenty years. When public works, executed by the state, afford such felicitous models, it is not to be wondered at that private wealth should follow this artistic impulse, and devote itself to the cultivation of a taste, the example of which comes from so high a source. It is thus that the love of art is rekindled among a people, and that we render them happier by transfusing into their modes and habits of life a certain degree of elegance which has a favourable re-action on morals and intellectual progress.

The streets of Munich are not, generally speaking, regular; but the aspect of some of them is really noble and imposing. One would wish to see more people in them—a little more of that bustling and noisy activity which indicates a busy and swarming people. Here it is not the town that is too small for the people, but the people too few for the town: a hundred thousand souls anywhere else would be a large number, no doubt; but for a city like Munich, it is perhaps not enough. We had determined to devote twenty-four hours to a rapid survey of some portions of the city; and at the approach

of evening we took lodgings in an hotel conveniently situated for our purposed excursions.

The next day we experienced how rapidly the hours pass away when one is arrested at every step by some fresh subject of interest. A few indispensable visits had taken up a portion of our morning, and we hastened to visit the gallery of paintings, so admirably situated next to the palace in which the king resides. No sooner had we entered these immense halls, than we saw that they would take up our entire day, and that the other riches of Munich would escape us for lack of time. The collection of pictures we were called upon to admire, is, without gainsay, one of the most valuable, and, above all, one of the most pleasing, in existence. The selection evidences profound study and knowledge, for which credit must be given to the king, who has rekindled in Bavaria the arts and sciences, which he loves, and therefore cultivates with the applause of Europe. This gallery is particularly rich in the Dutch school, which has furnished it with some of its most *naif* and charming masterpieces. Nowhere are finer Van Dyck portraits to be seen; and in no place in the world save Munich can there be found an immense hall, filled throughout by the genius of Rubens; indeed this is the most attractive portion of the collection, insomuch as it affords the justest idea of the powers—no less extended than prolific—of

the great master. I cannot pretend to enumerate here all the wondrous canvasses which arrested and charmed our attention for so many hours; but a meed of sincere praise may be given the architects to whom the sumptuous gallery of Munich is indebted for the excellent distribution of light, in which respect no gallery in Europe is so well arranged. The spacious apartments in which the larger paintings are hung, are lighted from above; while the smaller pictures, the gems of the art, whose charm frequently depends on the light in which they are seen, are collected together in a series of cabinets, which extend in a parallel direction with the large apartments, where they are lighted in a manner which allows them to be examined in the minutest detail.

On taking leave of the rich gallery of Munich, we could not avoid being struck at the sight of a living object—a perfect curiosity—altogether in harmony with the locality and the functions assigned to him. The porter in charge of the magnificent vestibule at the entrance of the galleries had not in the first instance arrested our attention; it was not till our departure, when one of us approached his person, covered with gold-lace and brocade, that we noticed the gigantic proportions of this Goliath. The colossus in question is nearly seven feet high, and yet so formed, that, notwith-

standing these enormous dimensions, the development of the muscles is marked with that exaggerated distinctness which characterises the Farnese Hercules. The honest giant appeared to enjoy, not without some pride, our admiring wonder, and answered our questions with a good-natured complaisance which did honour to his gentle and amenable nature.

A second but hasty visit to the gallery of sculpture—a building of rare perfection, especially destined to receive collections of statuary—allowed us to appreciate the rich acquisitions of the highest antiquity, recently made by the Bavarian government. Nothing can surpass, in point of arrangement, this beautiful and noble gallery; nowhere, we repeat, are to be seen ornaments executed in better taste, or more appropriate to the objects for which they are destined.

A short walk in the beautiful gardens of the palace, barely enabled us to embrace the *ensemble* of this royal residence. This single day, devoted to so many interesting subjects of observation, was too soon ended; we were nevertheless obliged to make all haste, and resume our journey to Vienna, where our companions had already been long waiting for us, prepared to join in our distant excursion.

It was by Braunau that we entered the States of the Empire, and we arrived there at dawn. This little town,

most singular in its construction, is composed of one single street, of no great length, but of considerable width. At each end stands an antique gate, surmounted by a belfry. Two fountains, of a picturesque design, are symmetrically placed in a line along the axis of the spacious street, the lofty houses on each side of which have but few windows, and these closely fastened with blinds in the Spanish fashion. The roofs, which slope backwards, are not seen from the front; so that Braunau looks very much like a Turkish town. It was here that the Austrian Custom House officers searched our baggage, which was done with the most ready and obliging consideration.

In spite of the almost maddening slowness of the Austrian postillions, whom neither threats nor entreaties could persuade to trot up the most imperceptible slope, Nildorff, Ried, and Unter-Haag, pretty and animated little towns, were left behind, and we halted for a short time at Lambach—a large and well-situated burgh, overlooking a river whose waters flow not far from thence into the Danube opposite Linz. A little before nightfall we were walking on the public place of Ens, the Anitia of the ancients, which gives its modernized name to one of the tributaries of the Danube. While awaiting the interminable preparations for our frugal supper, we had full leisure to examine a large square tower which

stands isolated in the midst of the esplanade. This tower, the lower part of which forms an archway, seems to have done duty as a gate and belfry, at a time when the town of Ens, then of less extent, was, like the majority of towns in the vicinage, fortified by a wall, and closed at its two extremities. Even in its present state, this is still a remarkable monument. It is covered with frescoes throughout almost the whole of its surface. An enormous dial, visible probably at a league's distance, indicates the time, and the lower part of the tower is adorned with a profusion of inscriptions in Latin. One of these, which states the exact date when the building was constructed, informs us that it was commenced in 1544, and finished in 1548. Another inscription, in Monkish Latin, sums up in two distichs the history of the town, which arose on the ruins of an ancient city, where two evangelists, St. Mark and St. Luke, did not disdain to come in person and reveal the truths of Christianity. The following are the two distichs in question, which we have copied for the use of those who take an interest in the Latinity of the sixteenth century—

Aspicis exiguam nec magni nominis urbem
Quam tamen æternus curat amatque Deus:
Hæc de Laureaco reliqua est; his Marcus in oris
Cum Lucâ, Christi dogma professus erat.

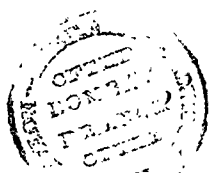
The shades of evening interrupted our investigations, and shortly after we availed ourselves of the services

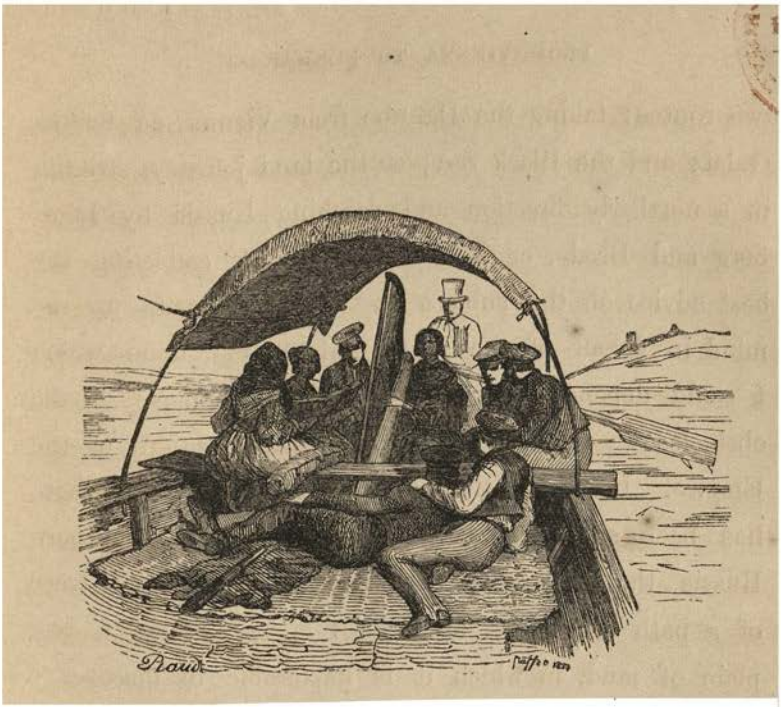
of the mail, which through the whole night did not accomplish a distance of more than ten French leagues, or forty of our versts—a journey which, with Russian horses, would not require more than three hours. At last, on the 27th of June, at eight in the morning, we reached the burgh of Mölk, with its magnificent monastery, beautifully situated on the Danube, and commanding an extensive view of its course. The monks of the order of St. Benedict inhabiting it, are few in number, and enjoy all the devout ease which, in ancient days, distinguished the monastic life of the learned orders. The Emperor Napoleon, when he came to Vienna in 1809, selected this convent for his quarters, saying, it was the spot he preferred to any he had ever seen throughout the world-wide scene of his conquests. Perched like an eyrie amid the clouds, it was indeed a building well calculated to please his gigantic imagination. We were shown on the floor of one of the apartments, which is now used as a locutory, the spot where a heap of letters had been burnt by him. Towards five in the evening an unusual stir, clouds of dust, a multitude of carriages, elegant women, and swift horsemen, announced that we were approaching Vienna. We made our entry at last into this beautiful capital, and after an hour's journey through an interminable suburb we reached the quarters which had long been prepared for

us. From that time, the whole party which was to accompany me was completely united. Those gentlemen who had waited here for me had had no want of leisure to explore Vienna in all its details, and I found them especially satisfied with its riches in the department of science. They were eager to pay homage not only to the eminent merits of the *savans*, with whom they had had an opportunity of conversing, but also to their politeness and obliging attention in their ordinary relations. During this long interval they had not neglected such opportunities of amusement as they could ally with their studies. They appeared enchanted with the lively, active, and bustling appearance of Vienna, which, from its noise and liveliness, and more especially the eagerness of its inhabitants for amusement and dissipation, would scarcely be taken for a German city. Every evening during the fine season the same ardour is exhibited for the public walks, for fêtes and music, and above all for the exciting waltz, which Strauss directs from the top of his orchestra. The public gardens are situated without the actual city, and it is here that the middle classes come and breathe the fresh air amidst their favourite amusements. Nothing can be more attractive than this assemblage of young and pretty women, coquettishly but tastefully dressed. While all the lights are sparkling amidst the foliage

of these gardens, and the strains of the orchestra are arousing the gaiety of the multitude, the higher classes of Vienna roll silently along in their carriages beneath the thick shade of the Prater—a fine, sombre forest, where the deer are not unfrequently seen to brave the line of brilliant equipages, and bound off through the broad glades. On returning from the drive, it is customary to draw up on the Graben—a long esplanade in the centre of the city, ornamented with two fountains of noble design—here, in the neighbourhood of the *cafés*, the carriages stand in a line, and the evening ends in agreeable conversation, which can be carried on without leaving one's carriage. After this fashion did we, during three long days, take our share in this pleasant, easy, careless life, which was to prepare us for our approaching fatigues. As soon as the business of the morning, spent in completing the last necessary arrangements for our journey, left us at liberty, we started on some new and interesting excursion. Schœnbrünn, with its dinners under the trees, its majestic gardens and rich zoological collection, took up almost the whole of one day. I imagine, that without being accused of severity, one may quarrel with the circular plan of the last named establishment, in which the animals are lodged in enclosures and buildings so far apart from each other, that to see them all entails a long and tiring walk.

We were unwilling to take leave of this beautiful place of amusement without mingling in the diversion of the *Montagnes Russes*, established in a pretty garden at a short distance from Schœnbrünn. At last, however, all our arrangements were complete, thanks to the kind attentions I met with from all who were pleased to receive me. As we were decided to make the experiment for ourselves of travelling by the Danube, we engaged our berths on board one of the steamers which start from Pesth for the lower part of the river; and with the intention, on my return, of visiting and describing the beautiful capital of Austria, I gave the signal for our departure.





CHAPTER II.

FROM VIENNA TO BUKHAREST.

When I arrived at Vienna, I had yet come to no decision as to the route myself and my companions should adopt. From that point we had to proceed through countries generally but little visited, our observations upon which would consequently have the keen interest of novelty. To reach Odessa, I had to choose between

two routes: taking the Danube from Vienna, as far as Galatz and the Black Sea; or the land journey, striking in a northerly direction and reaching Russia by Lemberg and Brody, or Tchernowitz. After collecting the best advice on the subject at Vienna, I made up my mind in favour of the first. Information, upon which I could depend, caused me to be apprehensive of the obstacles we might meet with on the frontiers of the Empire. It frequently happens, indeed, when there has been a continuity of rainy weather in Southern Russia, that the roads become impassable; every trace of a path disappears, and the Steppes become a vast plain of mud, in which it is impossible to discover a track: in such a case, woe betide the European carriage venturing into this dire slough, when even the light *télégues* of the country can scarcely keep on the surface. On the other hand, too, the total number of persons forming our party was not less than seventeen; we should, consequently, have required at least five carriages, including the waggon for the baggage and apparatus of the expedition, and such a caravan would require at least thirty or forty horses. It was almost impossible, therefore, that such a supply could be obtained on roads like these for several days in succession, with the degree of regularity which was desirable; for these reasons, the steam-boat, which descends the

Danube, from Vienna to Galatz, appeared preferable to all of us, and it was accordingly unanimously resolved we should adopt this route. Moreover, besides being the easier of the two, it presented many advantages. In the first place, we escaped the disagreeable necessity of being separated from each other; and next, it was a mode of travelling admirably adapted to reading and study, and allowed of our exchanging any observations the journey elicited. Let me add, that the Danube, then a recent conquest of steam travelling, was naturally an object of interest to us. The Danube is, so to speak, quite a modern invention; it has taken its place—an honour which it well deserves—among the travel and trade rivers of Europe; nor is it long since it became the subject of peculiar attention on the part of political writers. The series of letters equally remarkable for their style and the erudition displayed in them, which the *Journal des Débats* adopted as its own, had given forth, on the subject of this promising medium of communication, ideas as just as they were ingenious; and written, as they were, in a somewhat bantering spirit, they were undoubtedly calculated to allure us between those two banks, where, perchance, some features which had escaped the traveller of the *Journal des Débats* might be discovered. Was it not, indeed, very probable that certain traits of real

life had remained unobserved on those shores, where his imagination had so felicitously evoked all those inspiring memories of the Dacians and of Rome, all the poetry of legend and history with which he has animated his descriptions? The correspondent of the *Débats* has written, in this fashion, an eloquent inaugural discourse on one of the grandest occasions of modern times:—"The Union, by the Danube, of the Eastern and Western World." We who succeed him will set aside such brilliant generalities, and with more humility will describe how this fusion of the two worlds, so long separated by the Danube, and which it is now destined to unite, is gradually taking place.

Our berths were secured on board the *François Premier*, one of the Company's steamers, which was to start from Pesth, for Drenkova, on the 5th of July. Being unable to moderate the adventurous ardour of my companions, I granted them all the leisure they required, that they might trust themselves to the not very perilous chances of navigating the Danube, from Vienna to Pesth, in those flat bottomed boats which perform their journey, passing through Presburg. Accordingly, they placed themselves gaily on board, while I, in a very matter-of-fact way, took the mail on the 3rd of July. The distance from Vienna to the frontier of Hungary is short; how great is the difference, however, of the splendid roads in Austria, from

the worn-out highways of Hungary! Without seeking too minutely the cause of this, it is not difficult to discover that it is radically inherent in the peculiar character of the ancient Hungarian government, and that the remedy for it can only be applied with precaution, in a country where, by virtue of the fundamental laws of the constitution, the nobility are exempt from every species of tax. Now, as the nobility in Hungary forms the entire of the old Hungarian blood, and monopolises all the possessors of land, it is not to be wondered at if all the public works, the burthen of which falls exclusively on the poorer classes, are badly executed, and badly maintained. Of late, it is true, several large land-owners, setting aside all petty self-interest, have turned their attention to the amelioration of this state of things. At the head of these noble spirits, whose minds are slaves to their duty, stands forth a man whose generous influence will produce great results in a country which has the strongest desire for social progress; we speak of Count Stephen Széchény. On their side, the Diet—that assembly of nobles representing a people of nobles—are not the most backward in yielding to the national impulse which has already made itself manifest. Already several resolutions, recently enacted, have given evidence of a laudable inclination to follow that movement towards material ameliorations, which is one of the strongest features of European society. More

especially, it must be admitted, that the efforts which the prudence of the Diet of Presburg has made in this direction are clear and precise, untrammelled by any abstract theories, and aim directly at the prosperity of the country, the accomplishment of which will be a new and beneficent era for Hungary. Here, then, we behold this assembly, who it cannot be doubted have comprehended their mission, urged by the influence of progressive ideas towards the gradual reform of shortsighted laws, which would oppose an insurmountable obstacle to all ulterior amelioration, in a country which at last calls out for its share in the benefits of modern civilization, viz.: practicable roads, canals, bridges and railroads. The first necessary condition of this progressive amelioration, which we see commencing in Hungary with wise and persevering caution, will probably bring about a more equitable assessment of taxes, when by a common agreement loyally entered into, every inhabitant of this noble soil, renouncing privileges which are a burthen to all, will consent to bear his share in the public charges.

The posting in Hungary, which is open to public competition, does not appear to me quite to justify the great praise awarded to it by an illustrious personage of France. The supply of post-horses, when left to private enterprise, as in England, is evidently an advantage to those who undertake it, since it constitutes an additional

profit to that which the owners already draw from horses employed in farm-work. But if this system is profitable to the owners of horses, it is less advantageous to travellers, who are obliged, on more than one occasion, to wait till a horse returns from the plough, and the ploughman is transformed into a postillion. A very simple remedy for this, is to take the post-horses supplied by the government, which does not keep horses for two purposes.

A very short stay at Presburg, did not allow us to see more than would come within the ken of any traveller desirous only of a superficial notion of this ancient capital. Although, since the year 1790, Presburg had restored its ancient title to Buda, it has retained within its walls the seat of legislative power, and the apparatus of the ancient Hungarian institutions. This propinquity of the directive power is naturally favourable to Austria; and while it restored to Buda its rank of capital city, which was due to its importance, the Imperial Government, nevertheless, kept at Presburg the two assemblies, whose deliberations are quickly reported in Vienna. To look at the modest building in which they are held, the rooms devoid of all style, and possessing no other character than that of the most ordinary plainness, with no other furniture than a set of large wooden benches, covered with fresh ink stains, one would imagine one's-self in an immense school-room.

This absence of all form or ceremony would lead to the conclusion that there existed a harsh contrast between the miserable appearance of this hall of legislature and that pompous array of costume, swords, spurs and prerogatives, with which the nobility surrounds itself: it might be feared that this extreme simplicity was a sign of indifference or contempt for the sanctuary of the laws, were it not easy to ascertain that beneath this somewhat rough simplicity there is shown, among these ill-quartered legislators, a profound sense of the important functions confided to them. The feeling of respect for the laws which reigns within these walls, covers and adorns their nakedness.

Even to those who pass only hastily through it, Presburg is a city which must leave a lasting impression. Pleasantly situated on the left bank of the Danube, it is balanced on the opposite bank by splendid masses of foliage, overshadowing public walks, which are much frequented, and deserve the trouble of crossing the river to see them more closely. The city itself is overlooked by a castle, of which a ruin is all that now remains; but it is so felicitously situated, as to reckon few rivals in Europe. Presburg possesses, moreover, some remarkable monuments, and all the public establishments belonging to a royal city still in a flourishing state.

On the 4th of July, in the afternoon, we reached Ofen, or rather Buda, the Hungarian city, *par excellence*, which

from its rocky eminence contemplates its four large suburbs, sloping down in *echelons* to the Danube, while on the opposite side of the stream, on the left bank, Pesth spreads out its broad extent, and all the pomp and magnificence of a new and already wealthy city. The imposing appearance of Buda sufficiently indicates that it is the representative of that historical Hungary which, through so many years, was happy, powerful, and independent. Under the Romans it was called Sicambria; and tradition declares that its present appellation was conferred upon it in memory of a brother of Attila, whose name was Buda. However this may be, there Buda still stands, to tell all the valiant history of Hungary, which commences from the conquest of Arpad; beholds in the eleventh century the elevation of the dynasty of Stephen; flows on through twenty-three reigns of the kings of his race, and the sovereigns of the royal branch of Anjou, to Wladislas II., who collected the laws into a code; and terminates with the reign of Louis II., whose death, which occurred at Mohacs, in 1526, determined the downfall of the ancient Hungarian monarchy.

Buda, thus torn from its legitimate princes, and subjected for more than a century and-a-half to the power of the Turks, has preserved, in spite of itself, the traces of this violent dominion: witness the baths, which are in the oriental fashion; its metal spires, almost in the

precise form of minarets, But no sooner were these fierce conquerors expelled, notwithstanding the admixture of Greek forms of worship, all the heads of the church, all the representatives of the royal blood, and of the nationality of Hungary, combined in their efforts to wipe out the wrong which had been done to these sacred walls. Buda preserves in its treasury the crown of St. Stephen, his imperial globe, and his sceptre. It is the seat and residence of the Palatine, and of the high dignitaries of the church; and since Hungary, so long divided, has recognised the hereditary claims of Austria, Buda has resumed its well-deserved title of queen and capital of Hungary.

There are few situations so remarkable as those of these two cities, Buda and Pesth; separated by a stream so wide as the Danube, yet really forming one and the same city: Pesth reckons sixty-thousand inhabitants; it is full of noise and movement, and is the type of an active, bustling, industrious city, producing more than it consumes. The fine streets and broad quays, lined with edifices built in excellent taste, are well adapted for a commerce which is daily increasing.

I had scarcely had time to visit a few streets in the most remarkable quarters, and those monuments whose exterior was most deserving of attention, when I was informed of the arrival of those of my companions who

had preferred proceeding to Pesth by the picturesque route of the Danube. They arrived enchanted with their three days' water-journey. The description of what had been seen during their short interval of separation, was immediately communicated to me; and, not to encroach upon our subsequent observations, which from this point we collected, and noted down in common, I shall place here the remarks in question, in which these gentlemen speak collectively, and according to their particular impressions.

"On the 2nd of July, after receiving your instructions respecting the point at which we were shortly to assemble, we lost no time in gathering together on the banks of the Danube at the place fixed upon by the boatman who was to conduct us down the stream to Presburg. It was from that day that the commencement of our campaign really dated. Accordingly we had all dressed ourselves in the simple uniform we had agreed to adopt, and which we never laid aside during the whole of our voyage. In this trim we embarked in a large boat, in which the master had, according to his promise, provided us with convenient places. This species of craft deserves a short description, as it is the almost unvarying type of all that are met with on the Danube, from Vienna to the vicinity of its mouth. These boats are generally of large dimensions, rudely constructed, and traversed throughout almost

their whole length by a large cabin seven or eight feet high, surmounted by a slanting roof, which gives it the appearance of a house. Within this is the hold, which contains the entire cargo—and here, too, the passengers, provided they are able to stand the combination of odours emanating from the merchandise, may be accommodated. The fore and aft parts of the vessel are similar to each other, being very much elevated, and the helm is made fast to the stern by means of common ropes made of the fibre of bark, and is worked by one or more men from a platform on the roof of the cabin. This species of floating *châlet*, built of white deal, descend in great numbers the stream of the Danube; but when it is necessary to ascend against the current, it can only be done at the cost of infinite trouble, and by means more picturesque than ingenious, of which we shall have occasion to speak hereafter.

"The master of the boat looked upon us as passengers of no ordinary class, probably on account of our paying, without dispute, the small sum required of us, and had reserved for the mining gentlemen, as he called us (probably on account of our caps, ornamented with two hammers forming a cross), the stern-castle—above which, an old sail formed an elegant canopy. Our chests, turned into sofas, were ranged round this saloon; and, to insure

us against any unwelcome intrusion, the precaution had been taken of nailing the door of the cabin assigned to passengers paying more moderate fares, and occupied by them in common with several barrels of tallow and bundles of leather, the perfume of which penetrated through the partition. These passengers were, for the most part, industrious Israelites, proceeding to Presburg for trading purposes. Just as we were leaving the shore, a new companion was presented to us, and we readily consented to grant him the hospitality which was politely requested of us. We were informed that our fellow traveller was a captain of engineers, on a journey, in company with his two pretty little daughters, to some distance from Vienna.

"We had soon left the city, together with its garden-chequered suburbs, and the majestic trees of the Prater, behind us. At the extreme limits of Vienna, a little bark, manned by officials charged with the examination of our passports, came alongside of us. This formality was quickly discharged by a sub-officer, who, in handing back our papers, politely wished us a pleasant journey. We were touched at this mark of courtesy, which, though certainly trivial, struck us as being very unusual under similar circumstances, and because one rarely sees, in these police affairs, the examiner and the examined look pleasantly at each other, and part mutually satisfied.

The Danube below Vienna branches out into a multitude of streams, separated by islands of considerable extent, uniformly covered with meadow land, and a green and abundant vegetation. The force of the current caused us to proceed at a rapid rate, and we soon only beheld the tops of the highest edifices in the city, and the magnificent spire of St. Stephen standing out, slender and brilliant, against the deep blue of the long range of mountains which separates Austria from Bohemia. A charming pleasure trip was our journey, starting, as we did, in the mild morning air, and gliding rapidly along the green waters of the Danube, passing on either side a multitude of islets covered with willows. From time to time, some pretty village or fresh-looking country-house appeared, and was quickly masked by the verdure-clad peaks, which seemed to run by as bent upon continually closing up behind us the sinuous banks of the stream. For a long time we continued threading our course through this labyrinth of water and vegetation. And what pleasanter mode of travelling can be desired? You make rapid way, and yet your thoughts can dwell on the objects which surround you—strange alliance of movement and repose.

"Our fellow-traveller, the captain, respected our contemplative silence so long as the Danube, pressed in between the islands, allowed us to follow closely the

sinuosities of the right bank. But soon, when we had entered into a broader course, he discreetly ventured upon a few questions relative to certain points, which, from the moment of our departure, had evidently excited his curiosity. Who were we? what uniform was that we wore? what was the object of our journey?

These questions, insinuated with all the polite and indirect turns of phrase which the German language affords, received answers, of which our companion was fortunate enough to make out the sense, although it required the united efforts of three of us to compose and pronounce the shortest sentence. From this moment an active conversation was engaged, the principal part being taken by the captain, who soon perceived that he was addressing those who were intelligent listeners, if not brilliant in dialogue, and graciously became our *cicerone*, selecting, with considerate attention, among the objects which attracted our observation, those which might be most interesting to us as Frenchmen.

" When we had left in the rear the pretty villages of Simmering and Neugebaude, the captain directed our attention to the right bank. ' That pointed spire, cased in polished iron,' said he, ' marks where stands, behind those trees, the pretty town of Ebersdorff. In 1809, Napoleon's head quarters were for several days

established there; and it was from that large island to the left, that the French army sallied out, crossing three bridges boldly thrown over the stream. You were very young then, gentlemen, but I was present on the occasion. Exactly where we are now passing, the waters of the Danube were dyed with blood; and for more than a whole day these shores trembled with a fearful cannonade.' While our companion addressed us thus, our eyes rested on the island of Lobau, now so calm and verdant, and Ebersdorff, a charming little village, which possesses a manufactory of iron-work, and an actively employed spinning-mill. Nature and man's intelligence have not allowed a trace to remain of the bloody and glorious battles which once devastated this beautiful country. Such is the reintegrating power of these two eternal forces; while the old warriors of Essling and Lobau are falling every day beneath the hand of time, trees full of sap and vigour are spreading their branches over those heroic plains, and a new generation is building up anew, what its fathers had destroyed.

"Lower down appears Petronell, a village on the right bank, occupying the site of the ancient Carnuntum. Our captain informed us that the excavations which have been commenced in the neighbourhood frequently bring to light fragments of Roman works. He also

mentioned a triumphal arch—the Heathen's Gate (Heiden-Thor), as it is called, dating from the time of Tiberius, who erected it in commemoration of the conquest of Pannonia. To all this obliging information on the part of the captain, we replied a few words, which he interpreted as expressions of our regret that we had not leisure to visit these interesting remains.

"Towards noon we were travelling through a country of more severe aspect. The Danube, assembling its waters into one bed, expands here into an imposing breadth; lofty hills bound it to the right, and here and there masses of rock jut forward, like promontories, into its stream. The little town of Haimbourg, soon came in sight. Built in a picturesque recess, it is overlooked by an old citadel, now in ruins, rising on the rounded summit of a mountain. From this citadel, an embattled wall, flanked with towers, descends towards the town, and forms its outward boundary. This fortification, which suggests the infancy of the art, the style of the walls, with their closely ranged battlements, the construction of the towers, scattered here and there in the vicinity, seem impressed with the characteristics of Eastern architecture. Haimbourg, twice destroyed by the invasions of the Turks, has been as many times re-built; it is now flourishing, and has been augmented by a large number of new buildings. Admirably situated

at the furthest end of a small bay, it forms, as seen from the Danube, an agreeable picture. Haimbourg contains, we are told, two thousand eight hundred inhabitants; it possesses a tobacco manufactory, producing annually ten thousand tons, and every thing around seems to breathe well-being and prosperity. Here we took leave of our good-natured and well-informed captain, whose company we regretted we could not longer enjoy.

"A few paces lower down stands Wolfsthal, a small Austrian town, on the confines of the empire, and marking their extent. On the opposite bank, the frontier is indicated in a more remarkable manner, by a huge rock, which is most picturesquely surmounted with ruins. This enormous mass, rising perpendicularly from the waters of the stream, forms the extreme point of the lesser Carpathian chain, which advances in a straight line from the north-east, and forms the boundary between Moravia and the kingdom of Hungary. A river, flowing with yellowish waters—the March—after watering by its tributaries the whole of the Moravian basin, sinks into the Danube at the base of the imposing mass of rock in question. On the right bank, the corresponding elevation to this lower peak of the Carpathians is scarcely traceable, in a range of hillocks of some height, which gradually sink down to the level of the plains situated southward of the Danube. It is through this

imposing entrance that the Austrian stream flows into her beautiful kingdom of Hungary, whose rich meadows it irrigates.

"At a short distance from the great rock, formerly defended by a fortress, the ruins of which are all that remains, we landed at the little village of Theben, which extends its name to the entire promontory. It was two o'clock, and our boatmen, not to abandon their fixed custom, were desirous of making their repast in the arbour of a little tavern near the shore. We had so ardent a desire to survey the imposing ruins overlooking the village, that we each of us immediately commenced an independent ascent of the scarped cliff which separated us from the old castle. We were soon dispersed at different heights over this steep declivity; and, as we gazed around us, we could not but remark the different intervals which the varying tastes or avocations of each caused between us from this moment, when, for the first time, we set foot upon a tract on which we might exercise our observations. M. Huot had halted within a few feet of the level of the Danube, and was zealously hammering at the rocky mass beneath him, to loosen from it his first specimen of the Hungarian soil; Dr. Léveillé, arrested in his upward course by the beauty and variety of the vegetation with which the declivity was clothed, had already collected copious

specimens of the local Flora; Rousseau was looking out for the lizards and reptiles scared by our invasion, and the unfortunate creatures which fell into his grasp purchased, at the cost of a convulsive death in a bottle of spirits, the honour of figuring some day in a geological collection; a hundred feet above us, Raffet was scaling the walls of an ancient turret, rising in the air like a watch-tower, on which we had looked with longing eyes while passing, a quarter of an hour before, at the foot of the promontory of Theben. The sun was powerful, and many a painful struggle was required, ere we could reach the centre of the old fortress. The platform can only be reached by scrambling over several ramparts of loose fragments, which appear to have been heaped together by the explosion of a mine; but on attaining the highest point of the ruins, which is a terrace still in a good state of preservation, the trouble and fatigue of the ascent are richly rewarded. At a perpendicular depth of four hundred feet beneath you, the March mingles with the Danube, preserving still for some distance the muddy tint of its waters. In the haze of the distant horizon, to the west, are descried the richly coloured plains of Austria, and the thousand branches of the Danube, with its green islands. At a short distance, to the east, lies Presburg, protected by its

white-walled castle overlooking the city; further on, amidst the clouds of the horizon, the eye traces indistinctly the outline of a range of mountains.

"When we had, at last, all assembled on the summit of the ruins, and had gazed at leisure on the beautiful prospect before us, we slowly made our way back to Theben, and rested a few moments in the dark and somewhat unwholesome den where our boatmen and their passengers had installed themselves, and were quietly smoking an after-dinner pipe, over several large pots of excellent beer, supremely indifferent to castles and ruins of all kinds. There were in this rustic tavern scenes full of interest and character. The loose and coarse attire of the Hungarian peasants—their broad felt hats and long hanging hair setting off a dark and masculine countenance—struck our attention for the first time; it was a fine study of drawing and colour. We felt the greatest desire to question these grave and athletic looking inhabitants of the place, as to the old castle of Theben and its history; but how was it possible to converse with a set of people who make it a pretext that they are some thousand yards from the Austrian frontier, not to understand a single word of all the German which we clubbed together to interrogate them? It must be admitted, however, that we were listened to with benevolent calmness, and without

that smile of impatience which, even on the part of the most phlegmatic Germans, always meets the heart-rending efforts of a Frenchman to make himself understood. The experiment we made at first of the Latin tongue, so long commonly spoken in Hungary, was not more successful. This traditional language is daily becoming extinct, and we were at the expense of furbishing up our college reminiscences for nothing. At last, however, our host informed us, through the medium of an extraordinary mixture of dialects, that the castle was known by the name of the Knights' Castle (Ritter Schloss), a somewhat unmeaning designation, very common throughout Germany, and upon which, in this instance, no light is thrown by the guide books published on the subject of the Danube, where it is simply stated, that Theben is commanded by a castle, remarkable for its antiquity. As a last addition to our information, we learned, from a Jew on board the boat, that the ruined fortress had served, in 1809, as a retrenchment to the Austrians against the French, and that since then it had remained in the deserted state in which we had found it. On setting out again, the Hungarian custom-house officers were present at our embarkation; but they were satisfied with our assurance that we were not introducing into the kingdom of Hungary any species of merchandize subject to duty—a statement which was corroborated by

our little stock of scientific apparatus, carefully stowed away in the boat. Our craft then left Theben, and at six o'clock in the evening, just as Dr. Léveillé was concluding an interesting lecture he was kind enough to give us, describing the twenty species of plants he had collected on the mountain, we made for the shore on a bare-looking beach, at the foot of the houses, forming the commencement of Presburg.

"When we had made sure of a lodging at an inn—where, by the way, the landlord, in spite of all entreaty, refused to serve us with supper before the regular hour appointed for the evening repast—we had a guide sent for, to take us over the city, who conducted us, the first thing, to the castle, which, from a lofty and picturesque site, overlooks Presburg and its environs. Our good cicerone, in the absence, we suppose, of any other road, made us climb up to the citadel along a winding street, the entire population of which, assembled in groups at every door, saluted us on our passage with such pressing marks of civility, that we were unable to halt a moment anywhere, in order to contemplate at leisure the variety of costume and physiognomy presented at the first glance by the inhabitants of this extraordinary suburb. A gate of ancient construction, and a steep flight of steps, lead to the esplanade upon which stands the old castle. All the works which once constituted it a fortress have

been almost entirely dismantled; and the castle itself—a large quadrangular edifice, flanked at each corner by a square tower—is completely in ruins; in other respects, this ancient palace has never been remarkable for anything but its situation, and the fine prospect it commands. Its four sides are studded with a great number of windows in regular rows, which give it the appearance of barracks. The style of its architecture, like that of the majority of public monuments we saw in Austria, is that of the eighteenth century, and its dilapidated walls still present a few remnants of sculptured flower and scroll work, covered over with mouldering whitewash. The buildings of this period are not among those whose ruins command respect, for they offend the eye, as do all examples of premature decay, all faded relics of a coquettish fancy no longer endowed with the wealth which gave it importance. The grand and severe ruins which the hand of Time had heaped up on the summit of Theben inspired us with lively interest; but this wreck of the demolished palace of Presburg is a spectacle which can only be regarded with mournful feelings. In the days of its splendour, however, this imposing edifice, from its lofty and magnificent eminence, commanded a majestic prospect of the surrounding country and the stream flowing at its feet. Rich, indeed, is the landscape which unfolds itself to the east and to the south, stretching

out to the horizon, and which, as we gazed on it, was beginning to vanish in the grey shades of evening. While we were enjoying this admirable prospect, we were accosted by a little man of advanced age, dressed in a half-military costume, who, after saluting us in our own language, addressed us without further preamble, and in a singularly blunt and gruff tone, as follows:—'You are contemplating, *Messieurs les Français*, this vast prospect; a very fine one, is it not? But, to make up for it, this palace is a disgraceful barrack of a place, which is left standing for no reason I can divine. You observe the marks of a fire, which you might be led to believe was recent, but which happened as far back as 1809, twenty-eight years ago; everything has been left in the same state as the day after the event; the people about here care little for public buildings, as you may perceive. And do you know why this castle came to be on fire? Simply to balance a debtor and creditor account. At those times of war a large depôt of military equipments had been established here, and the account-books of the store-keeper being in a very complicated condition, one fine night the castle broke out in a blaze! Fire, you know, purifies everything, and settles all accounts as well.'—'Sir,' said one of us, 'you appear to judge very harshly of the men of former days, who, to all appearance, are your contem-

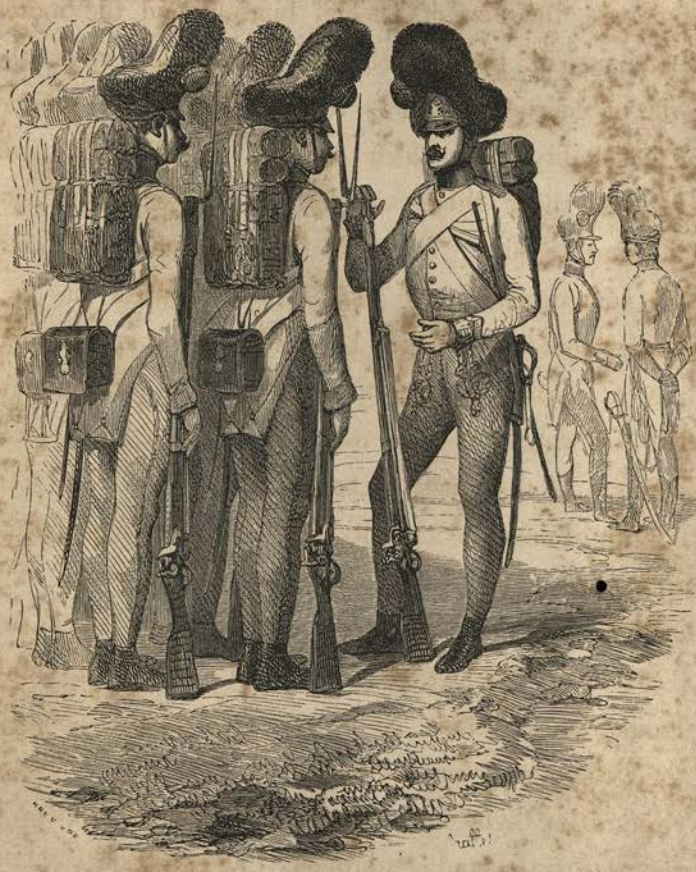
poraries, and probably also your fellow-countrymen.' 'You are right,' he said, 'I am Hungarian, and by this time an old man; such as you see me, I served under Napoleon: after that, I need say no more, to show that my ideas are not always in accordance with those of my compatriots of the present day.' 'And these ideas of yours,' replied one of us, 'your compatriots have not the good sense, probably, to appreciate.' 'You have guessed rightly; consequently, we are often at odds; we discuss the point, and as I am not understood, I get the worst of it. I am only plain lieutenant, gentlemen; and, in spite of my grey hairs, my heart is still too young for the times and for my country. A month ago, for a slight breach of discipline, I was sentenced to imprisonment in these ruins, to which I am indebted for the pleasure of meeting you here this evening.' 'At any rate, lieutenant,' said we, 'you have an admirable promenade and a delightful prospect to console you.' 'My walk,' he replied, 'is limited to this esplanade; as for the prospect, I confess myself less sensible to its charms than to the injustice with which I am pursued. You are now on the threshold of my prison, and here I must stop: good luck await you, gentlemen, on your long journey.' As he watched us returning downwards: 'You may be certain,' he cried, 'that it is not these old walls that prevent my

getting away from here, if I chose; but I have pledged my word, and a soldier's word is sacred.'

"We took leave of our captive humorist with painful feelings. 'Here,' said we, as we descended the height, 'is a gloomy recluse, who is to be pitied; for he has taken the men and things of his country in hatred, and he cannot conceal these unnatural sentiments even from strangers. What would be the result if we had to spend, instead of a few minutes, several hours in the company of this misanthrope? How would it be possible, after such an interview, for a traveller who is only skimming the surface of the manners and institutions of a country, to gather a notion on any subject with which he could rest conscientiously satisfied? The impression he will carry away with him will depend frequently on the good or bad temper of the first informant chance may throw in his way; and is it not incurring a serious responsibility, to repeat assertions which we are unable to confirm by our own personal and disinterested investigations?' In the midst of these reflections, which tended a little to dispel the charm of our undertaking, and enjoined a prudent reserve in the composition of our notes, we also made this remark; that the persons with whom we had occasion to converse during this first day's journey, had all given a certain turn to their observations, the invariable intention of

which was to tickle that feeling of national pride which is said to be so excitable with us. The captain of engineers, the Jew of Theben himself, and the morose lieutenant in the citadel, had equally hit upon that form of courtesy which is the most delicate expression of hospitality, and which consists in talking to your guest on those subjects which may be supposed most flattering to him. Thus, all the allusions to Napoleon and his epoch, which might well surprise us in a country once oppressed by his arms, were evidently only a mark of their benevolent intentions towards us, and for which we were indebted to the mild and easy manners of the Austrian people.

" Returning into the city by a suburb which appeared especially singled out by the soldier as the scene of his Sunday relaxation, we were more than once struck with the soldierly bearing, easy gait, and perfect trim of the Hungarian infantry. Nothing can be more elegant than their uniform, consisting of a white coat with small tails, close-fitting light blue trousers, trimmed with black and yellow stripes and embroidery, and a cap combining comfort with a good defence for the head. This costume, which is worn by men for the most part extremely well-made, is one of the simplest and most graceful uniforms that can be imagined for the foot-soldier. The City of Presburg, which we now traversed in its widest



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HUNGARIAN INFANTRY (GRENADIERS).

extent, appeared but thinly peopled; the streets are wide and airy, but built with little regularity; the modern buildings present a tolerable appearance, though built of light materials. We saw the theatre, a large edifice standing on an esplanade, and distinguished by one of the longest Latin inscriptions ever seen—a circumstance which naturally extinguishes all desire to read it. On that day the theatre was closed, but an Italian Punch had erected its itinerant stage under the portico of Thalia. A small group of spectators followed, with listless attention, the universal, but somewhat hackneyed drama of the Neapolitan humpback. *Povero Signor Pulcinella!* To what an audience was he addressing himself! In what ears was he pouring the treasures of his sarcastic wit, his bursts of jeering laughter, and the burlesque dialect of the lazzaroni! The grave Hungarians who halted before him seemed to take him for a madman, and the greater number went on their way puffing a disdainful whiff of tobacco.

"As we approached the bridge of boats thrown across the Danube, we began to discover how it was we had found the finest part of the city almost entirely deserted. A dense crowd of people, and a number of elegant carriages, were returning in a body to Presburg. This living stream covered the bridge and the alleys of an adjacent promenade, in such sort, that we, who were

the only persons going in a contrary direction, found no little trouble in squeezing our way along. This fashionable assemblage was returning from a theatre built in the open air—a pretty amphitheatre enough, of a semi-circular shape—on the performances of which the curtain had just been let down. It still preserves the name of Arena, a designation which continues in Italy to be applied to all theatres of the same kind. When we had walked a little about the promenade, which was being entirely abandoned, we began to reflect that this significant clearance, on the part of a people so regular in their habits, was a hint which ought not to be lost on travellers who for twenty-four hours had scarcely broken fast. We returned, accordingly, to the *Golden Lion;* and this time our host, grown more hospitable, introduced us into a large room, already echoing with the noise of the guests, and the discordant strains of a band of Bohemian musicians.

"From another boatman we had hired a boat to take us to Pesth in thirty-six hours; on this occasion our craft was a little flat-bottomed boat, just exactly large enough to hold ourselves and our baggage. We had, on either side, given our word to be ready at three o'clock. We were exact to our appointed time, not having reflected that so near the frontier we could expect but little improvement upon German habits;

accordingly, we had had full time to construct a little hut of matting on board our little boat, when, at about five o'clock, the boatman and his helper quietly made their appearance. We left the shores of Presburg from beneath a sort of platform surrounded with a balustrade. This is called the Königsberg; and from the summit of this elevation each King of Hungary, upon his accession to the throne, mounted on horseback and equipped in complete armour, brandishes towards the four cardinal points the sword of St. Stephen.

" Presburg and its castle were soon left in the distance, marking their outline upon a cloudy sky—an effect so happily conveyed by English engravings. The Danube, chafed by a fresh breeze from the east, dashed against the sides of our boat, impelled swiftly along by the current and a pair of long oars. Below Presburg the stream flows between banks of a truly wild character. We followed the widest of its branches, that which flows round the southern portion of the island of Schutt, one of the largest river islands of Europe, its extent being no less than twelve leagues by seven. The country on all sides is flat, uninhabited, and covered throughout with willows and brushwood.

At the aspect of this utter solitude it is difficult to believe one's self in Europe, and in the midst of a country rich in thickly populated towns. Such is the

deserted state of these tracts of meadow-land that the animals themselves seem ignorant of the danger with which the presence of man threatens them. Frequently we came across large flocks of herons and cormorants gazing upon us from the shore with the most tranquil confidence. Sometimes we heard the shrill cry of the gull, transporting us, in imagination, amidst the breakers of the sea-shore. At other times, large herds, wandering about without a keeper, would halt, as if to contemplate us in our boat; but occasionally the waste would become peopled, and the silent air filled with a strange tumult: this was when one of those large floating houses, which we have already described, was ascending the stream, drawn by a team of fifty horses, painfully toiling from ford to ford, from island to island, with these ponderous machines. Every horse carries a man; and every rider in this nautical squadron, now plunged up to his middle in the stream, now ploughing a deep slanting furrow in the loose sand, utters an uninterrupted succession of frightful yells, responded to by the no less savage shouts of the troop collected on the roof of the huge boat. It is in truth one of the most singular spectacles that can be seen, is this troop of half savage and mud-be-grimed boatmen, with their black faces hidden in a forest of long hair, or overshadowed by an immense broad flat hat. We recognized in them, only with a

more strongly marked character, and a still greater amplitude of garment, the well defined type of the Bas Breton race. Sometimes, too, we would come across a long string of floating water mills, which, from amid the tall trees on the shore, to which they are securely moored, are seen to slant out towards a more rapid current in the stream. But the solitary inhabitants of these shores that interested us the most are the gold searchers, scattered over the islands, or on isolated tracts of beach. These poor people are incessantly employed in sifting the sands of the Danube, to gather from them the particles of gold which the stream carries down in its course. A stream of water, which has passed through a heap of sand and gravel collected upon a hurdle, is kept continually running over an inclined plane, covered with felt or coarse cloth—the minute particles of the precious metal thus remaining in the meshes of the tissue. We examined closely these good people, engaged, with no other shelter than their large hats, in this interminable labour. Not one of them could speak one intelligible word to us, or understand one of our questions relative to their monotonous occupation. Our boatman informed us, that these men, who work the whole day exposed to the inclemency of the seasons, are scarcely able to earn the value of fifteen sous of French money by a day's labour. This boatman was a man of an extremely

good humoured character, and appeared to possess the knowledge of an experienced pilot as to all the manœuvres by which our journey could be shortened. He, too, as if by conspiracy, had his word to say about Napoleon. He had served the great man as an ally and a dragoon some eight-and-twenty years since; and, from this glorious epoch of his life, the brave trooper (now a sailor) had retained but one single phrase of French, with which he honoured us on every possible occasion. His entire stock of French consisted of these words—'*Adieu! mon bon ami.*'

"We had disembarked at the foot of an ancient monastery, which is now the principal inn of the village of Kézis; the public room of this hostelry was already occupied by several groups, all belonging to the peasant class, so remarkable in this country for their open and manly demeanour, and rugged physiognomy. The custom they have of shaving their temples to a certain height, gives a strange and somewhat wild character to their heads. Their hair, closely cropped in front, is left to grow to its full length behind, and hangs floating over their shoulders. A garment of coarse linen, drawn in round the loins by a broad belt of stitched leather, as hard as a piece of wood; enormous boots of undressed leather; the broad national hat stuck over the head with a decided air, and a certain abruptness of deport-

ment and gesture; such are the principal features which distinguish the people of this country.

"A young man apparently belonging to the ecclesiastic order, and who was taking his meal apart from the rest, advanced towards us, and politely enquired whether he could be of any service to us; the mixed Latin of the middle ages, which he used in conversing with us, adapting itself with facility to the most ordinary topics. This young man informed us, among other things, that all his compatriots who had received anything like a regular education habitually used the Latin language, which still continues, in Hungary, the language of science and of the law. In answering our courteous acquaintance, we were more than once driven to the use of barbarisms, which did not, however, prevent our conversation being very animated on both sides. The furniture of the public room, in which we were, consisted of wooden benches and tables; no other ornaments could be seen about it save a few rude engravings, after the fashion of our illustrated ballad of the 'Wandering Jew,' encircled with Hungarian legends, and pasted on the wall, in company with the prospectus of a French journal, '*L'Europe Littéraire*,' which probably owed this distinction to its elegant vignette. One of the corners of the room was occupied by a mill for crushing salt, exactly similar to the ancient mill used by the Romans,

and still to be found among the Arabs. The doors, open to all comers, gave access to a number of beggars and hideous cripples, whose noisy importunities disturbed our frugal dinner. Soon after, we were visited by three German female musicians, whose costumes, with harp and guitar slung across their shoulders, too surely indicated wandering minstrels. One of them was young, of an interesting countenance, and with all that decency of demeanour which is generally to be found in Germany, where this species of nomadic talent is not always a cloak for mendicity. The songs with which these poor women regaled us did not exhibit more art than we have a right to expect from street *virtuosi*. Just as we were returning to our boat, we were given to understand that our pilot, the ex-dragoon, had a favour to crave from us; and this boon was to grant a passage to our three singers, who were sisters, and were bound for Pesth. We could not refuse this support to the fine arts, too frequently condemned to foot it, and our journey proceeded amidst the strains of national minstrelsy. Komorn arrested us for a short space towards the evening. This city, the Hungarian name of which is Komaron, the capital of the county of that name, is situate at the confluence of the Donau-Waag and the Neutra with the Danube. Extensive fortifications, of modern construction, defend the city

TYP. J. CLAYE.

HUNGARIAN INN AT KÉZIS, ON THE RIGHT BANK OF THE DANUBE.

and its approaches. All around indicates that the position must be one of great strategetic importance, and that the citadel of Komorn deserves the high reputation it possesses among military men.

"A halt of only a quarter of an hour did not allow us to visit a church of some beauty, dedicated to St. Andrew, and which is one of the five churches in Komorn devoted to the Catholic religion. Three places of worship are open to the followers of various persuasions in this city, which is peopled by no less than 12,000 inhabitants. The broad quays and fine-looking houses which we observed, denoted that affluence has become one of the conditions of life in this place. But as night was approaching, and the appearance of the heavens threatened a storm, we were unable to judge either of the character or industry of the population.

"At nightfall, the wind rose with increased violence, the rain fell in large drops, and the swelling waters of the Danube made rough work for our frail craft, whose flat bottom rendered it unfit to cope with such an adversary. The shores were so distant at this time, that it seemed as if we were navigating an extensive lake; moreover, the most complete darkness soon shut us out from all prospect, with no other shelter than four feet square of matting, beneath which our trembling

fellow-passengers had taken refuge. No other course was left us, than to accelerate by every means our nocturnal journey, and each of us, in turn, came to the relief of our boatmen, wearied by fifteen hours toil. Bewildered by the roaring of the wind, and soaked through by the rain, we reached the land without being aware of it, so pitchy dark were the heavens. The experienced skill of our pilot had guided us safely into a small bay on the right bank, and we groped our way to a neighbouring inn, where the only answer made to our call was the immediate blowing out of the lights; however, we were at last, after some parleying, admitted, and the hostess, with her active attendants, soon made us a good fire. As for our supper, after the fashion of the Homeric heroes, the most skilful, perhaps, but not the most famished of our drenched party, had to lend a helping hand to prepare it.

"A few hours rest in this inn, which belongs to the village of Hohenmarch, had repaired the fatigues of our little Danubian tempest; and on the 4th of July the rising sun beheld us floating towards Gran. Standing out in relief at the foot of the beautiful undulations of the Matra hills, Netzmühl, and its rich vineyards, the possessions of the Counts Zichy and Esterhazy, were soon left behind us, as also the boundaries of the Pala-

tinate of Komoru; and, with a new province, we greeted a new and most imposing landscape.

"The river Gran, flowing from the north, pours its waters into the Danube at the foot of those hills which we had so long seen in the distance, without reaching them; and henceforward the stream, with increased rapidity, flows in the narrow bed which it has made for itself through this chain of mountains, covered with verdure, and studded with picturesque ruins. Before entering this narrow channel, we had landed at Gran, the Esztergom of the Hungarians, situated on the right bank of the Danube, in an agreeable valley. Capital of the Palatinate, and for a long time the residence of the kings of Hungary, Gran has more than once fallen into the hands of the Turks, the inveterate foes of this beautiful country; but it always continued dear to the high dignitaries of the Church; who, driven away by the invaders, still brought back, after each storm, the pomp and grandeur of an archiepiscopal establishment, which dates from the eleventh century and the martyrdom of St. Stephen.

"On the mountain which commands the city, and on the site of its ancient citadel, a primate of the Church, Prince Alexander of Rudnay, erected the costly edifices with which his piety endowed the ancient metropolis of this diocese. A palace for the archbishop,

another palace for the chapter, and a vast seminary—are the monuments which overlook the valley; but that which worthily crowns this sacred hill, so long in the possession of the Mussulman, is a gigantic and magnificent church, which is unfortunately not completed. This vast Basilic, formed on the plan of a Greek cross, is built of masses of brick-work, but covered with slabs of granite and porphyry of exquisite beauty. Protected at present by a temporary roof, this metropolitan church is intended to be surmounted by a dome, which will admirably complete the grandest building to be seen in this country. However, unfinished as it is, the ill-fated church is already treated as are too often our old Gothic monuments; the ignoble coating of whitewash, that abominable disguise which would disfigure the noblest piles, already covers these half-finished walls. The carvings have disappeared beneath this wretched whitewash, which has not even respected the Imperial Palace at Vienna.

"After glancing at the beautiful prospect around, the mountains, the city, and the stream, which is crossed here by a ferry, we continued our journey, not forgetting our travelling musicians, who, during our visit to the citadel, had piously attended mass in a little chapel near the shore.

"We next beheld Wisegrad. In the twelfth century,

when the Hungarian sovereigns inhabited Gran, Wisegrad possessed magnificent gardens, costly dwelling-houses, and delightful baths for the relaxation of royalty. Wisegrad is still beautiful in the midst of its ruined *enceinte*, and the dilapidated remains of its crested walls, relics of a splendour which has fallen under the barbarous hand of the Turk. The enchanting situation of this castle, in the midst of such beautiful scenery, gave us a clue to the etymology of Wisegrad, which we traced to VISUS-GRATUS, a name which frequently recurs in the present day in many parts of Europe, under the modern form of BELLE-VUE.

"After irrigating all this fine country, the Danube resumes its course through the meadows, dividing itself to embrace the beautiful island of St. Andrew, so rich in vineyards and villa residences, passing Waitzen, celebrated for its superb cathedral, and whose numerous spires denote a large population, just as the gallows erected near its gates show it to be the seat of criminal justice. Our still rapid progress scarcely allowed us a glimpse of St. Andrew, Donawetz, and Alt-Ofen, and the renowned sites of the island of the Hares. Our pilot kept his word, and just as the thirty-sixth hour was expiring, we arrived, surprised, and delighted, in the midst of the animated and majestic panorama presented by the cities of Buda and Pesth, divided by the broad current of the Danube.

"When we had disembarked on the Pesth side of the

river, not without some trouble, on account of the numberless boats, and the turbulent and importunate crowd blocking up the approaches to the quay, we recompensed our boatman, who saluted us all, and this time very *à propos*, with his French phrase, *Adieu mon bon ami.* We received, at the same time, the humble thanks of our poor musicians, whose budget, exhausted for us, was henceforward destined to charm Hungarian ears. After which, we proceeded towards the interior of the city, along a magnificent quay bordered by a row of palaces worthy a great and opulent capital.

" Shortly afterwards, we joined M. de Demidoff, who had arrived a few hours before us."

I had no difficulty in collecting these first impressions of my companions, so vividly had their minds been struck, and so ready were their memories to lay up a store of observations. Each brought his tribute to find a place in my journal, and more than once I incurred the mute disapprobation of the less experienced of my fellow-travellers for refusing to attach the same importance to facts, new only to them, which they possessed in their eyes—a wholesome rigour nevertheless, for the further we journeyed, the more particulars we should have to note down. The nearer I approached the frontiers of Russia, passing through countries rarely explored, the more I expected opportunities for the free exercise of my pen, anticipating that the

originality and wildness, if I may use the expression, of my new acquaintances, would redeem me from the tedious monotony of certain books of travel.

The next day, on the 5th of July, the *François Premier* had assembled all its passengers, and left the twofold city beneath a hazy sky, which cleared up soon after sunrise. We did not take leave of this noble spot without saluting, with our noisy artillery, the ancient and the modern capitals of Hungary, cities which differ so widely in age, manners and aspect. Buda commands her younger sister, who, in spite of her gay attire, owes her the respect due to a venerable elder sister. If one be the city of commerce and progressive ideas, the other is the city of history, kings and nobles—the city which fought and suffered long ere it beheld its young rival, whose magnificence embellishes the opposite bank, rise beneath the protective shadow of its walls. To follow out the comparison, if it be true that Buda represents the noble Hungary of olden times, and that Pesth be the type of the Hungarian people of the present, it may be said that the bridge which unites the two cities is the symbol of the present political condition of the country. The old bridge is already insufficient for the existing traffic, as is admitted on both sides. But Buda is opposed to any new construction; the cause of this is, that on the old bridge, toll is paid only by the people, the nobility, by virtue of its privileges,

being exempt. Were a new bridge built, on the other hand, the privilege would naturally expire in the presence of a new tax, which would make no distinction between simple and noble, for the tendencies of the diet in matters of public revenue, incline now in a marked manner towards principles of equality. Buda resists, therefore, and will long hold out against this sacrifice of its ancient immunities.

In the space of an hour, both cities were out of sight, and the Danube now flowed in the midst of its dreary meadows. The stream had overflowed its banks, and spread its waters far around, inundating farms and villages, whose inhabitants are no better than amphibious savages. Herds of white oxen, and occasionally buffaloes, long flocks of cormorants, scared by the noise of our vessel, were the only incidents which diversified our journey.

At every village of any importance, the *François Premier* stopped to exchange a few passengers, and a volley of salutes. Not far from one of these villages, called Adoni, the name of Schubry was pronounced, and we learnt that the adventurous brigand, who for many years had spread consternation in these regions, and had, previous to his vagabond career, been a swineherd, had just been killed at the age of thirty-four, leaving behind him an immortal store of marvellous histories, destined during the long winter nights to make more than one generation

of the good and credulous peasants shudder at their horrors.

It is easy to perceive that steam-boat travelling is yet a novelty in this country, and that the astonishment and curiosity of the people at this spectacle are not yet exhausted. Such was the irresistible interest which it possessed in their eyes, that the better to observe us, a throng of men and even of women waded out up to their knees in the black and muddy stream, where they remained transfixed, even after the steamer had resumed its speed.

Ever since we had crossed the Rhine, we had never ceased wondering how, in all the villages, so many appeared idle, even during harvest time, when the assistance of all the inhabitants should seem to be in requisition. By the operation of what cause is so much leisure left to people so abject? Yet the country we were traversing seems more than any other to demand the labour of man; for the inundation which yearly lays waste its fields is an enemy which must be fought with to be overcome. But no! the Hungarian peasant seeks some elevated spot on which to erect his hut, and once in a place of security, he abandons his field to the annual invasion of the stream. The truth indeed is, that this people have endured a long course of sufferings, and in the matter of invasions, have experienced many more cruel than those of the Danube; hence, doubtless, they have become indifferent

to all such calamities. Everywhere we meet the same indolence, the same carelessness, the same contempt for the resources a rich and fertile nature has lavished upon the inhabitants of these countries; energy and the love of labour alone, are not to be found—those two powerful incentives which have urged human industry daringly to encroach upon the ocean, and to say to the tempest, as in the Scripture, "Hitherto shalt thou come, and no further." Our course continued still devoid of interest, in the midst of the inundated fields, till we reached Tolna, where several passengers disembarked. Tolna is peopled by Germans; sacked and gutted at the time of the retreat of the Turks, this little town was succeeded by a small burgh, built upon its ruins by a party of agricultural settlers. The cultivation of the vine and the tobacco plant, carried on within a limited range, forms the support of this colony.

The first day's journey of the *François Premier* ended at Mohacs. We required all the assistance which the current of the Danube could afford us to reach our station for the night, our steamer being a new one, and the supply of steam being irregularly kept up through the inexperience of the stokers, the machinery propelled us but slowly. The crew, moreover, made up of natives of every imaginary country, yielded but slow obedience to the captain, whose orders had to be conveyed to this floating

Babel in three or four different languages. With respect to the boat itself, it was evident that its builders had not piqued themselves on following the sumptuous and convenient models presented by other nations, the neglect of all refinements amounting in these steamers to absolute contempt. A steamer which does not travel at night, yet keeping its passengers on board, should offer better accommodation for rest than can be found in one narrow saloon, infested with disgusting insects, and serving in turn as dining, sleeping, and dressing room, though equally unfitted by its filthiness for either purpose. No better berth was to be had than a mattress placed upon chairs, an unoccupied table, or the wet planks of the deck. When this important line of steam communication, however, from Vienna to Constantinople, is more generally adopted, the conveyance of travellers will become an object of greater care and attention on the part of the various companies, by whom they have been hitherto neglected, the only object in view being the mere accomplishment of the journey itself. The administration will subsequently have to turn its attention to the crew employed, as well as to the comforts travellers have a right to expect from them. This is one of the necessary conditions for the due maintenance of the service.

On reaching Mohacs, just as day was declining, we were surrounded by a clamorous crowd flocking to the

shore, which they converted into a complete slough of mud. The plank for landing was scarcely adjusted, when a number of miserable, half-clad women, both old and young, encumbered the deck. Women at Mohacs perform the masculine duties of porters; and the necessary supply of coal for our next day's journey was soon conveyed on board in a hundred wheelbarrows, which they trundled along with the most noisy activity. The appearance of these poor wretches, with their somewhat too scanty costume, and singularly determined deportment, was truly original and characteristic. The men, who remained tranquil spectators of the rude labour assigned to the women, wear the same loose, easy costume and peculiar hat to which we have already alluded. On the adjacent shore, in the midst of a bed of deep black mud, an extraordinary medley of lookers-on, half men and half ducks, some merchants and some sailors, waited, in the utmost confusion, for our landing. Four spirited horses, badly harnessed to a broken-down old carriage, and kept in check with difficulty by a coachman attired in coarse grey linen—such was the country equipage of more than one noble personage who quitted us at Mohacs to go shooting over their inundated lands. A number of skiffs, made out of the hollow trunks of trees, and almost swamped by the weight of two men, paddled, during this time, round the steamer, which might be well

compared to one of those adventurous vessels which, in the time of the Argonauts, neared the then unknown shores of the Danube. We entered the city, in spite of the increasing darkness, and proceeded some distance. We found the streets spacious and regular, but filled with damp and stinking manure, and the houses wretched. The public edifices are, for the most part, in harmony with the rest of the city. More important from its history than by its present population and influence, Mohacs has twice beheld upon its plains a struggle between the Hungarian Monarchy and the Turkish Invader. In 1626 Louis II., a young monarch full of promise, lost his life in a celebrated and bloody battle, in which the flower of the nobility fell valiantly beside him; and from that day, Hungary groaned under an oppressive yoke. But also when, in 1687, the Turks retreated, and, driven back by a series of defeats, descended the Danube as far as Belgrave, Mohacs witnessed a splendid day of reprisals. It was on account of this brilliant victory that Prince Eugene was called, in this country, the Terror of the Turks. This town, twice celebrated in history, is one of the apanages of the Bishop of Fünf Kirchen. Situated a little to the west, the delightful suburb, which the Hungarians call Peks, points, with pride, to its venerable cathedral—the first raised upon the Christian soil of Hungary, and on the foundations of a Roman

citadel. The prelate of this diocese is said to have an immense fortune at his disposal. Mohacs reckons four thousand inhabitants, whose lot we should not be disposed to envy, if we formed an opinion of the country from its deplorable aspect at the time of our passing through it. It was rather an amusing coincidence, that the only monument of art we were able to discover was the Statue of Népomucène, the patron of Mohacs, whose intercession is all-powerful against inundations. Never had the blessed protector of the town a better opportunity to exercise his power than this year, when the insolent waters of the Danube overflowed, even to the very foot of his image. This saint is placed in the very middle of the town, not far from the market, and its whitewashed pedestal is flanked by cannons, captured from the Turks, or rescued from the depth of the river. Night obliged us to retreat towards the *François Premier;* and at night, Mohacs was filled with a prodigious number of frogs, left by the Danube in the damp streets, and which, jumping and croaking in all parts, pursue the benighted wayfarers into their very houses.

On the dawn of the 6th July, we were again moving on through a flat country, passing on our right Erdöod, whose only object of interest is the ruin of an ancient castle, pointed out to us as once the domain of the Counts of Palffy; Wukovar, a magnificent convent erected

at the confluence of the Wuka, whose terraces, from a distance, overhang the banks of the Danube. Here, beneath the shade of the lime-tree, peaceful Franciscans were wrapt in meditation or repose, and looked down upon us, fleeting by, as one of those illusions of the world which now and then interrupt the solitude of their reveries. Then rises in view Scharnigrad, with its dungeon in ruins; and finally Illok, marking upon the clear blue sky a long line of rampart walls, now crumbling vestiges of Ottoman conquest.

Soon, however, we discerned Peterwardein, the Gibraltar of the Danube, a truly formidable citadel, with rampart towering above rampart, and for which nature has done her utmost in seconding the art of defence. This noble fortress, whose name is inseparable from that of Eugene of Savoy, is in a perfect state of efficiency. We paid a visit to it, toiling up its steep and vaulted ascent, while our steamer was unlading merchandize at Neuzats, which lies on the left bank. Neuzats and Peterwardein are united by a bridge of boats, which was opened to let our steam-boat through. We had scarcely time to obtain one glance of this magnificent fortress, before we beheld, in full trim, our steamer making for the breach in the bridge. We were about fifteen or twenty on land — Jews merchants, a priest, and a young Parisian lady,

going to Bukharest. On a sudden, one and all, we set off running towards the bridge, till we reached the place through which the steamer was to pass; but the fearful rapidity of the stream caused the *François Premier*, generally so calm and steady in its course, to rush past like lightning through the gap, and soon to be far beyond our reach. Then arose a hue and cry among the passengers, who might well doubt if they were not abandoned upon this strange shore. The captain had cried out that we were to take a boat and follow; the boat was forthcoming, it was a slight shell of pine-tree wood, and in order to get into this perilous conveyance, we had to leap a height of eight feet. Everybody appeared suddenly seized with frenzy, all rushing together to precipitate themselves into it; the Parisian lady would undoubtedly have fallen into the water, had she not, by a lucky chance, come down with her whole weight upon the priest. At last, the boat bearing this unsteady crowd, all standing up and pressing together, was confided to the current of the stream, and borne down in many zig-zag directions. When it approached the steamer, it required the efforts of all those who had preserved their presence of mind, to control the rest of these trembling passengers, few of whom had any skill in swimming, and who, by all eagerly making at the same time for the point

by which to get upon deck, very nearly occasioned a general upset. We were compelled, by loud words and gesticulations, to keep down the most bewildered of them. Safely arrived, however, on deck, it was easy to read upon more than one countenance a determination never again to venture on picturesque excursions, for which the company manifests so little indulgence. But must we not be resigned to our fate! In all times, enterprises of transport have shown a marked predilection to merchant goods, a lifeless but lucrative heap, possessing neither the caprices nor the curiosity of the traveller. For these alone had we tarried at Neuzats; and great was our error, to imagine this delay was intended as a personal attention to the passengers.

The excitement occasioned by this occurrence had scarcely subsided, when a fresh cause of alarm called forth our general commiseration. A poor stoker, struck with apoplexy, was brought on deck, and slowly restored to animation. After some objections, the doctor, Léveillé, succeeded in bleeding him, which seemed a necessary course to take in his case. The poor fellow, however, had hardly returned to consciousness, when he fell into the most horrible and convulsive delirium, his fury being so violent, that even his comrades could not venture near to control him. This frightful disorder of the brain, known to the faculty by the term, "delirium tremens,"

is generally attributed to the habitual intemperance of its victim, and more especially to the use of powerful spirituous liquors. After continuing in this state several hours, this infuriated sailor, whose drowsy consciousness had only been awakened during his fit by the gift of a few pieces of money, fell at length into a complete lethargy, and was conveyed to the Hospital of Semlin, at which town our second day's journey terminated.

During this distressing scene, we had passed by Karlowitz, and had been cruising amidst innumerable islands that checquer the Danube. On our left, we had seen the mouth of the Theiss, one of the most considerable tributaries of the Danube, flowing down from Upper Hungary, from north to south, almost in a line parallel to the Danube, which, from Gran to Erdöd, runs also in this direction. The Theiss is noted for being richer in fish than any other river in Europe; owing, perhaps, to the extensive marshy plain which forms its right bank, contributing greatly to the increase of the species, who find abundant means of nourishment in the decayed vegetable matter suspended in the waters. Our course through these flat islands and inundated banks continued to be very uninteresting, and the night was far advanced when we halted before Semlin.

The steamer stopped at some distance from the town, to reach which it is necessary to cross a marsh

which must prove seriously injurious to the public health.

Semlin is a stronghold, the chief military station on the frontier of Slavonia, and the last on the Hungarian territories. Beneath its walls, the waters of the Save, flowing into the Danube, swell it to such an extent that it becomes a huge lake, whose banks are scarcely discernible in the distance. It is this position, so advantageous to the commerce of Semlin, that gives it an appearance of bustle and activity, which the traveller in Hungary is so little accustomed to see. Opposite the town, in the hazy distance, appear the towers and ramparts of Belgrade, guarding the entrance into Servia. All communication between the opposite banks is strictly interdicted, in consequence of the plague, which is a continual scourge to the Servians. Upon their desolate shore, a miserable village was pointed out to us, whose inhabitants had all fled the contagion. The dying alone had remained, without succour or consolation; one poor hut had still a light burning within, soon, alas! to expire with the inmate. This was a heart-rending spectacle, and thanks to the speed of the current, our unavailing compassion was soon diverted.

On our departure, Belgrade, seen through the mist of early morning, with its citadel and numerous minarets rising, as they seem to do, from the bosom of the waters,

afforded us a magnificent spectacle. This great city, occupying a sloping plain on the banks of the river, is protected on the Servian side by the immense height on which the stronghold, with its imposing bulwarks, is stationed. It would scarcely be supposed that between two towns so near one another as Semlin and Belgrade, a difference so striking should be found to exist; yet this difference is so remarkable, that on crossing from one to the other, an innumerable space seems to separate them, so far behind has Hungarian Semlin, with her European aspect, left Turkish Belgrade, in her Eastern indolence and careless ease. Upon beholding this medley of red roofs, round-headed walnut-trees, black cypresses, and shining minarets, every one feels that in this Turkish capital each individual is free to select his own place in the sunshine, and turn his habitation, as he pleases, towards Mecca or Constantinople. Even from the middle of the river, it is easy to picture the damp and tortuous alleys that wind through that labyrinth of trees and houses.

By the aid of our telescope, we could discover, on the threshold of these picturesque dwellings, circles of grave looking smokers, who were little conscious that they were the objects of our scrutiny, and that their balloon-shaped turbans, brown faces, calm and easy attitudes, were being rendered from afar, in the extempore album

of Raffet. In the highest part of the city is seen the house of Prince Milosch, Pasha of Servia; Youssouf Pasha, chief of the Turkish forces occupying Belgrade, has fixed his residence beneath the walls of the citadel.

Not far from Belgrade, we met a boat, in which were seated, in a row, a number of women covered with white veils. They were going up the stream, and kept close to the inundated banks; immediately behind them followed a numerous escort of riders, armed with hatchets, whose horses were up to their middle in water. At the head of the boat, and with his eye fixed on this precious trust, destined no doubt for the Pasha's harem, sat a man wearing a green turban, and apparently invested with the sole command over the escort, the women, and the rowers. We gazed earnestly on this characteristic scene, till it was lost to sight.

Semendria, whose walls occupy a great extent of space, next appeared before us, and on the opposite side, upon the level plains of this province, which is no longer Hungary proper, but goes by the name of the military boundary, or the Banat, we beheld the first stations of that indefatigable guard that keeps watch night and day over the movements of the river, ever on the alert to repel any encroachment of its formidable current back to the shores of Servia. The wise and beautiful organization of these military colonies of the Danube, has

solved, as regards the Banat, the difficulty of securing the safety of a shore line, by a system which at the same time constitutes the prosperity of the inhabitants. Military discipline, as applied to measures for the public health, has proved no less salutary in its effects when applied also to the government, the cultivation, and, in fact, to the whole living interest of this vast country, so long a prey to the caprices of warfare. The whole territory of the Banat is divided under regiments and companies, and a perfect equality in the rights and duties of each segment of this sort of perpetual camp, secures to the service the strictest regularity. The entire population forms but one disciplined and well organized army, whose duty it is, by turns, to cultivate the ground, tend the flocks, and guard the frontiers. The order that attends the working of these colonies, protected as they are by a paternal government, offers a powerful argument in favour of the system of associations.

By this system, possession being collective and not individual, the administration of property belongs to the head of the family, whether that right be obtained by natural laws, or by virtue of election. Already has this scheme produced the most prosperous results, securing at once, the order, well-being, and perfect tranquillity of one of the most important frontiers; thus proving that

HUNGARIAN POST, MILITARY COLONY. BANKS OF THE DANUBE.

institutions which, in certain states, are wisely set aside as impracticable theories, may in others meet with a favourble development. In short, is not to seize the right opportunity, the secret of all good administration?

These posts of colonist soldiers are stationed on the shores of the Banat, at distances sufficiently near to keep up an easy communication between them. Their barracks are most frequently built of earth; but occasionally, the better to resist the rising of the Danube, they are constructed on a more solid foundation, and raised upon piles on the shore. Here, in the most profound solitude, live these vigilant guardians of the public health — visited only by a few aquatic birds, familiarized with their inoffensive bayonets. Immense herds of horses, belonging to the colonial cavalry, are sometimes seen galloping through the meadows to quench their thirst at the running stream. We observed them about mid-day, when the heat fell vertically upon the plain and river, closely packed together, their heads hanging down, motionless, beneath the weight of this burning atmosphere.

It was beneath the scorching rays of a brilliant afternoon sun that we reached the spot where the Danube narrows itself, and plunges in one single stream, between the high barriers opposed to it—on the north by the Karpathians, and on the south by the Balkhan.

Beginning from the village of Ui-Palanka, the western undulations of these two great chains rise in high masses on either shore; our course, in consequence, soon led us between ranges of lofty rocks, amidst which the detonations of the *François Premier* awoke the most superb echoes. The occasion of all this clatter was a place called Basiasch. Basiasch is nothing more than a coal depôt for the steamers; and yet, on arriving and departing, it is the object of these formidable salutes, repeated as many as ten times by the distant echoes; and, what is still more strange, this insignificant station returns these salutes, shot for shot, as though it were a real and veritable citadel. Passing beyond Babakaï, a conical rock of considerable height, rising in the middle of the stream, we entered a narrow gulf-like basin, into which the Danube rushes, winding at every step to seek its path among the masses of rock through which it has forced a passage. On the right bank, the ruins of an ancient and imposing fortification are still seen to crown the heights. This is Columbatch, which once kept watch like a vulture over this important passage—Columbatch, which in the present day sends forth from the hollows in its rocks those formidable swarms of flies so destructive to the herds. Once fairly in the midst of this sombre and mysterious pass, where the green waters of the stream flow over a rocky bed, the traveller is hurried through

a succession of surprises: but so delighted is he to gaze once more at a landscape, to find himself again in the midst of a broad and richly coloured prospect, that he easily forgives the melancholy of the vast swamps of the Danube, the filth of its cities, and its disgusting reptiles — he forgives even the blundering stoppages of the *François Premier*, which bring him, in the dead of night, in the midst of a country he is desirous of seeing. He forgets the Spartan fare to which the steamer condemns its passengers; and the more particularly as the hour is approaching for deliverance from it. In the midst of this grand spectacle of roaring waters and vigorous vegetation, we reached the foot of a small house, standing quite isolated on the left bank. This house, scrupulously closed to travellers, and opening its doors only to bales of merchandize, is Drenkova. It was the goal which, for the last three days, we had been striving to reach—the terminating point of our tedious water journey. Like Basiasch, Drenkova is a mere empty name; and if the traveller has reckoned on finding a town, a hamlet, or even the most trumpery inn, he is awfully undeceived. You are at Drenkova—that's all: you are set ashore—and there's an end of it. Behold the fresh green turf, those tufts of flowering shrubs, those gaunt, solemn mountains — hearken to the wild echo which your steps awaken—this is Drenkova!

Nevertheless, these uninhabited shores, on account of their very solitude, are full of charm and tranquillity. On all sides the vegetation is extremely rich, and in the summer the temperature is very mild; for directly the sun advances towards the horizon, the surrounding mountains cast their vast cool shadows over the Danube. A few shepherds only people this wilderness, whose dress, peculiar to this portion of the Banat, is almost entirely borrowed from the sheep over which they watch; and whose skins, turned in or out, according to the season, serve them as covering for both head and body.

We had all disembarked together, in order to enjoy a stroll, and the pleasure of again treading on solid ground. Our naturalists were in a few minutes dispersed in every direction; while Raffet, ensconced by the wayside, began to sketch every one that passed. The models who appeared so opportunely were women, wearing on their heads a kind of turban of twisted stuff; a large chemise, open in front, scarcely concealed their busts; and the rest of their attire was composed of two aprons, or something of the kind, over a very close-fitting petticoat. There were also military colonists in the plainest kind of uniform, with tattered cloaks, worn-out caps, and the rest to match; and troopers belonging to the corps engaged in watching this line of shore, whose caps were of black sheepskin, and

their trappings thickly studded with brass and iron nails. These personages were no less obliging than picturesque, and afforded our artists every facility for accomplishing his object, the slight recompense they received for a few moments of immobility appearing to transport them with delight and astonishment.

However beautiful a place may be, it is pleasant, nevertheless, at nightfall, to meet with some other shelter than the vault of heaven; on this occasion we found our boat far preferable to the hospitable, but comfortless lodging offered us at Drenkova.

The 8th of July, the fourth day of our water journey, commenced under the most agreeable auspices. At day-break a large boat, laden with our carriages and baggage, started in advance of us for Alt-Orsova. From Drenkova to this town, the navigation of the Danube is rendered impracticable for large craft, by the shelves of rock, and the tortuous and rapid currents, rushing with the violence of cataracts, which obstruct and break up its course. The traveller is conveyed from that point in light boats, which, being constructed with flat bottoms, are able to glide over the obstacles which so unfortunately impede this admirable channel of communication. Accordingly, we embarked in a boat manned by eight oars, with a little cabin in the stern, whose flag, floating from the top of a light mast, bore inscribed

upon it the name of Tünde. Scarcely had we pushed off from the shore, when we felt the difference in rapidity, and especially in smoothness, of this portion of the stream. As we neared the village of Islaz, which stands on the Banat shore, we found the Danube covered with bubbling foam. A shelf of rocks, extending from the Hungarian side, advances so far beneath the waters, that the boats are obliged to steer for the Servian shore, where they are carried along by a current of extreme violence and rapidity. After an interval spent amidst the rushing and whirling of waters, the navigation becomes smooth again for a few moments, at the end of which a fresh succession of rapids, covered with white foam, is met with, which continues until the mountains gradually sink to a lower level, and allow an easier passage to the accumulated mass of waters.

From time to time, a few villages appeared in view on the Servian side, and on the opposite bank. Among these Milanova, dating only five years back, has replaced the wretched hamlet of Birniksa, and stands on the Servian side, in honour, it is said, of the son of the Pasha Milosch. On our left we passed Tricouli, an ancient fortress, consisting of three towers. Two towers of similar construction stand upon a height, while the third is surrounded on all sides by the waters of the

Danube, and communicates by a bridge with the rock on which its twin sisters are built. This ancient place of strength is now turned into a quarantine station.

The Danube soon narrows its channel once more, and runs through another defile, where its whirling current dashes against the gigantic obstacles which obstruct its course. Here we were set ashore, and the most majestic scenes we had yet beheld since we commenced our journey through these regions arrested our attention on every side. A wall of rocks rising to a height of more than eight hundred feet, overhangs the stream from either bank. Some yards above the level of the Danube, cut out in the lower portion of these immense rocks, a magnificent road is seen winding—a recent undertaking, still pursued with vigour, and worthy those grand vestiges of ancient Rome, relics of which are still extant on the Servian shores of the Danube. A spacious grotto opens out from the Banat side, and beneath its vaulted roof, taking advantage of the natural cavities, a rustic hostelry has been constructed. After resting awhile beneath the shade afforded by this cool retreat, we proceeded along the road to the spot where a steep path leads up to the entrance of the grotto of Veterani, celebrated for the stirring legends which attach to it of exiles, robbers, and deadly conflicts.

During the war sustained by Hungary against the Turks, in 1788, the grotto of Veterani is said to have

been occupied as an entrenchment by a garrison of infantry and a piece of cannon, hoisted with considerable labour to its mouth, commanded from this impregnable position the course of the river to a wide range.

Our boat awaited us at the lower end of the road, and we again began to drift rapidly down the stream, keeping near the Servian shore. We were enabled to observe, that on this side the rocks were regularly shaped out at their base, to make space for the windings of a road which follows without interruption the sinuosities of the Danube; this road is the work of the Romans, who, during the war with the Dacians, long occupied these countries previous to leaving them in the possession of their colonies. Shortly after, on the same shore, a large inscription appeared through the interstices of a mass of brushwood; our boatman detained us a moment to contemplate this noble memorial of the victorious passage of a great people. On the face of an immense vertical rock, a richly sculptured frame-work, ornamented with spread eagles, surrounds this long inscription. Notwithstanding the ravages of time, and the blackened traces left by the fires which, during so many ages, the shepherds have kindled at the foot of this historical rock, the two first lines may yet be deciphered, the result of the process of divination being as follows :—

IMP. CÆS. D. NERVÆ. FILIUS NERVA TRAJANUS

GERM. PONT. MAX.

When we had contemplated, from a prudent distance, not to alarm the coast-guard, this imposing memento, which one is so astonished to find in the midst of such a desert, and in a region probably not a whit more civilised than when Trajan directed his legions thither, we resumed our course towards Alt-Orsova, the ancient fortress of the Banat, and shortly after we were installed in the only solitary and humble inn which this little town possesses. Of all the passengers of the *François Premier* not belonging to our party, we had only retained the young French lady who was proceeding to Bukharest, and met with so singular an escape at Peterwardein, and an old Armenian merchant of agreeable intercourse and courteous manners. The latter, who from a long acquaintance with this route had become an experienced pilot in respect of the Danube, spoke of nothing but his apprehensions as to the formidable pass we had to encounter on the morrow. He had laid such stress on the rashness of braving, at a time when the waters were so high, those terrible banks of rock, in the bed of the Danube, called by the Turks Demir Gapy (the Iron Gate), that we had allowed ourselves to be persuaded to accompany our Armenian by the land route to the Skéla station, where the steam-boat, navigating the lower Danube, awaited our arrival. This arrangement, moreover, suited our taste for exploring, and

indulging our curiosity, and would allow of our visiting Mehadia, a place renowned for its mineral waters, the beauty of its scenery, and the remains of Roman wealth and luxury which are still to be found mingled with modern structures. The Romans were acquainted with the medical properties of these waters, and they were consecrated, according to their mythology, so full of poetical images, to Hercules, Venus, and Hygeia. An untoward circumstance presented an obstacle to our intentions, and obliged us to renounce this interesting excursion. The land route to Skéla was at that time partly inundated, and we were accordingly under the necessity of braving the dangerous cataracts aforesaid, and trusting our fate to the boat which was to carry us through these shoals to the Wallachian shore.

It was left for us to determine how we should employ the half day which remained at our disposal; each followed his own fancy. Orsova, however, is soon exhausted; three streets at right angles with the Danube, and two parallel with it, constitute the whole town, which is as yet but thinly inhabited. The custom-house people took possession of all our baggage, and while they were leisurely employed in making an inventory of it, we paid a visit to the lazaretto, at a short distance from Orsova. A shed, divided into three longitudinal compartments, serves as a public waiting-room, and the officials occupy

the intermediate space. A number of Servians, of miserable appearance, were confined in the space assigned to suspected persons, and held out to the visitors, over the partitions, some trifling wares of no very attractive appearance. Among these articles, which were pretended to be of Eastern manufacture, we recognised some bearing the address of the Rue St. Denis, in Paris.

In the midst of these puny Mussulmans, we were not long in distinguishing a little man, with a cunning and somewhat impudent expression of face. European garments, not a little the worse for wear, and that hideous cap worn by Turks in the discharge of any public service, composed his entire costume; he was smoking his pipe with a dignified air, when suddenly perceiving us, he addressed us in Italian. A colloquy ensued, in which the semi-Turk displayed a certain degree of caustic humour, some wit, but more especially a rare amount of assurance. The functionary who thus honoured us with his conversation was no less a personage, according to his own account, than the private medical attendant of the Pasha Milosch.

On an island in the neighbourhood of Orsova, between two stately branches of the Danube, and facing Servia, which is under his government, Prince Milosch has established his residence; rather, it would seem, on account of the remarkable character of the situation than

of its fortifications, which are half fallen into ruins. This Pasha is spoken of as a man of elevated mind and profound erudition. He is said, also, to carry his severity, at times, almost to cruelty. His childhood, like that of Sixtus the Fifth, was spent amidst the rude toil of a herd. That one who has risen from so humble a degree to a position so exalted should be inflated with some pride need excite no wonder.

The learned doctor who was before us asserted himself to be the favourite as well as the medical adviser of his master. An Illyrian by birth, then a renegade and something of an outlaw, a surgeon, an apothecary, a courtier, and for the rest, in his contempt of dress, a philosopher—this curious personage had taken a master's degree in impudent roguery. With what inexhaustible eloquence did he extol the wealth and power of his protector! A few artillerymen in ragged uniform, part of the Pasha's army, bore witness, however, that his princely bounty did not extend to the appointments of his soldiery.

Orsova, which is so near Turkey, cannot consider itself, in spite of the sanitary precautions employed in its quarantine, as completely secure; and this, probably, is the reason that the preventive measures taken against the introduction of the plague amount there to a system of persecution. Woe betide the traveller who, enticed by the beauties of the journey from Constantinople to Vienna

by the Danube, should undertake to ascend the stream. After experiencing interminable delays in the passage to Orsova, he would there have finally to expiate his fatal imprudence in the quarantine, where a fortnight's imprisonment would indefinitely lengthen the duration of his journey. This little town is, however, extremely characteristic. The picturesque disorder of the military colonies, the careless deportment of the women, the roguishness of the children, rendered more striking by the large loose dresses of the country—such were the traits of local manners we were enabled to seize, as it were, by stealth.

We left Orsova in a different boat, larger and more solidly built than the first, and we soon drifted down to New Orsova, or Ada Galeh (Fortified Island), as it is called by the Turks. This place of strength, the favourite residence of the Pasha, stands on a flat island, pleasantly situated, and covered with verdure and plants of various kinds, mingled with buildings and fortifications in the most lamentable condition. No regular plan is observable in the construction of this fortress; and it is evident, that the system upon which it is built, the result of the ignorant precautions of a succession of Pashas, is conformable to no rules of art. On the Servian shore, a large fortified tower, flanked by casemates and level batteries, forms a connection with the defences of Ada-

Galeh, and ensures to Servia the possession of the entire branch of the Danube which washes the right side of the island. When we had, at last, left behind us both these fortresses, we dashed into the foaming tumult of waters, where the Danube whirls madly round in eddies about the rocky peaks which bristle up from its shallow bed. This really dangerous part of the journey lasts for not less than twenty minutes; the roaring of the angry waters, the wild beauty of the neighbouring hills, and the vast prospect which opens out in front, rendering this rapid transit extremely impressive. The angry stream soon resumes, however, its majestic aspect, and spreads out serenely, and as though reposing from its trouble and agitation, between the distant shores of Wallachia and Servia. From this point we could perceive on the naked strand on the Wallachian side a few sorry-looking huts. This assemblage of hovels is called Skéla—and immediately opposite, on the Turkish shore, stands Cladova. Here our perilous navigation terminated. Henceforward the Danube flows peaceably on, presenting neither danger nor obstacle. The large steamer, the *Argo*, which we beheld moored alongside the barren shore, was only awaiting our arrival to dart forth upon the broad sheet of water stretching out before us, and which, from that point, is subject to the dominion of Turkey.

The first aspect of the Wallachian territory, upon which

we now set foot, was not of a character to entice us. A desolate and naked tract, studded with a few huts built of mud and brushwood, is the prospect which presents itself to the traveller awaiting the departure of the steam-boat from Skéla. We employed our time to some profit, however, by a visit to Tchernecz, a little town situated at about a league's distance inland; and it is just to confess how much we were struck from the first by its thoroughly oriental character. Tchernecz consists of little more than a long winding street lined with shops and stalls, which render it still narrower. All these shops are dirty, and the wares spread out in them for sale are frequently of a disgusting nature. It was Sunday, and the entire population was idle. The men were smoking their pipes before their doors, and the women, apart, though not entirely secluded from the men, were seated carelessly on the ground, with one leg bent under them and the other raised so as to touch the chin with the knee, carrying on lazy and listless conversation. This attitude, though strange, is graceful, and there is a loose negligence about it which is quite in harmony with the languid physiognomy of most of the young women. The costumes worn by the people bear a strong resemblance to the eastern form of dress; and, in other respects, the aspect of all these grave, immovable faces, with long, half-shaded eyes, makes one feel that there, on the

opposite shore, stands Turkey; and that she has left upon Tchernecz an impress of her manners which it will take time to efface. We were spectators of a Wallachian dance, replete with character and originality. Six men, spread out in a line with their arms interlaced, performed a marching movement from right to left and from left to right alternately, varying the step according to the taste or talent of the dancer, and heavily marking time to a tune played by two screeching fiddles. The two coryphœi, that is to say those who lead the dancers to the right or to the left, grasp, with the disengaged hand, a tall staff, on which they lean; and it is their peculiar function to embellish, with a variety of graces and flourishes, this dance, the general character of which is masculine and severe. A young Wallachian serjeant discharged this office with marked success. Holding up his head with a proud air, he swayed the whole chain of dancers along with his lusty arm, and ever and anon cast a satisfied glance at his legs, which he agitated with an agility and precision always faithful to the measure. The musicians were two Bohemians of that numerous and erratic race known in Wallachia by the name of *Tsigans*. One of these men presented so admirable a type of beauty that it was not without a feeling of pity that we saw the serjeant, who showed himself so skilful in the dance, inflict repeated blows with his

staff on his noble and interesting face, too beautiful to belong to a degraded soul, but which, nevertheless, expressed no other sentiment than that of brutish submission.

On our return from Tchernecz, in the afternoon, we found our vessel, the *Argo*, exposed to a storm of projectiles of a novel character. The inhabitants of Skéla were showering on our deck, with emulous perseverance, a volley of land tortoises; a species of bombardment which seemed to fill the besiegers and the besieged of both sexes with equal delight. Our intention was not to descend the stream as far as Galatz, the lower station of the Danube steamers. We were to leave the *Argo* at the foot of an ancient fortress on the Wallachian shore, called Giourjévo, whence it was our intention to proceed to Bukharest. The steamer we were now conveyed by would have travelled much faster than that which brought us from Pesth, had she not had to take an immense barge in tow, laden with coal, for one of the depôts on the route. Throughout the whole day, which was overclouded and rainy, and during which the wind blew with extreme violence, the weight of this enormous mass retarded our progress, and more than once threatened the safety of one or both vessels. At one time, the whole forepart of the coal barge was carried away; and to repair this disaster entailed a

considerable loss of time. To complete our distress, the captain, who was an Italian, could with difficulty make himself understood by a Hungarian and Wallachian crew. Again, we must repeat it, for the interest of the Danube Steam Navigation Company,—the prosperity of this useful association will never be ensured, until it has reviewed with severe scrutiny its organisation, hitherto extremely deficient, and provided for the rapid transit and complete security of the traveller, as well as for the comfort which every class of society has a right to claim at the hands of a public undertaking.

We soon came abreast of Widdin, which was still healthy, though perhaps only for a few days, the plague being at the very gates of this great city. Driven along by a violent current, we were just enabled to obtain a glimpse of some fortifications, apparently in good condition, above which rises the harem of Seid Pasha, studded with innumerable windows closed with blinds, and surrounded by balconies of irregular construction. Seid Pasha possesses no less than a hundred wives, carelessly waiting, as we were told, till the ravages of the plague should thin their number, and make a few vacancies in their lord's favour. Widdin abounds in edifices which may almost be considered elegant, is thickly planted with shrubs, and bristles with those long slender minarets, which cannot be compared to

anything better than wax candles topped with silver extinguishers. A few troops in good order, a small naval arsenal, and a number of war ships drawn out along the river-side, attest the zeal of a vigilant and active chief, worthy to govern a place of this importance, numbering not less than thirty thousand inhabitants.

A frightful and desolate space, devoid of all vegetation, separates Widdin from Lon-Palanka, the principal city of Bulgaria. Further on is Oréava, then a prey to the destructive ravages of the plague.

As soon as we were delivered from our dangerous and troublesome task of towing, the captain of the *Argo*, wishing to make up for lost time, determined not to allow any stoppage during the night, and trusting to the experienced steerage of an excellent Hungarian pilot, he made us continue our course in the midst of a multitude of islands, through which the Danube makes itself a thousand passages, spreading out to such a breadth as at times to resemble an inland sea. Szystow and Rouschouk are the last Bulgarian towns perceived on the right bank, the scene, at a remote period, of desolating wars, and now wasted by another plague, for we are now in the land of plagues. Shortly after, the *Argo*, steering towards the left bank, across the whole broad extent of the Danube, and coasting its low flat islands, from which the approach of the vessel startled into flight myriads

of pelicans, cormorants, and storks, landed us at last in the principality of Wallachia, beneath the dismantled walls of Giourjévo.

An abrupt shore, on which our baggage and carriages were hoisted with infinite labour, and the assistance of a great number of horses, received our caravan, somewhat wearied with the last monotonous part of our journey. It was not till we had fulfilled a series of long and tedious formalities, that we were enabled to obtain post horses to take us to Bukharest. After three hours spent in journeys backwards and forwards, and urgent solicitations, we succeeded in obtaining the disposal of all the post horses possessed by Giourjévo, where they are kept in an enclosure, and entirely without shelter. Twenty-four of these were collected, of which only two carriages availed themselves. These horses are small and slight, and without breeding. They bear a great resemblance to what in France are vulgarly called *porteurs de cerises*, but they are remarkably spirited, full of energy, and fly like the wind. The mode of harnessing them is extremely simple—two slender ropes serve as traces, and are united across the chest by a leather strap; another rope of smaller size is twisted round the head, in the fashion of a halter; no bit is used, and the feet are unshod, so that the animal is thus entirely at liberty. If these horses become fatigued in the interval from one stage

to another, the postillions dismount, and begin to rub their eyes, and pull their ears, believing that this refreshes them. Twelve of these coursers were harnessed, two by two, to each of our carriages. Animated by the long, shrill cry of the postillion, a species of half-naked savages, they suddenly started off, carrying us across plains, intersected by ravines, brooks, and bottomless bogs, and brought us by evening to Bukharest. Some of my companions had remained behind, waiting for the return of the post-horses. They took advantage of the interval, to make observations on all the curious diversions practised on the occasion of the festival of St. Peter, which fell on the day of our arrival at Giourjévo. I shall leave to them the task of describing these noisy revels.

CHAPTER III.

BUKHAREST.—WALLACHIA.

THE vast plain stretching out between Giourjévo and Bukharest is intersected, at intervals, by ravines of considerable depth, which become in the rainy season so many dangerous quagmires. With our heavy carriages, we more than once ran the risk of remaining stuck in these miry bogs, the road through which merely consists of branches of trees thrown across. An evil day would

it be for the equipage whose horses left it sunk in this black, soft mud; it would be long ere any one could come to its assistance. On these wretched roads, however, travellers are as rare as the villages themselves, if it may be allowed so to call a miserable assemblage of huts, built of clay, and covering a sort of kennel, in which an entire family is found burrowing.

On the occasion of our journey, however, these miserable hamlets were enlivened by sounds of mirth; the celebration of the festival had awakened all the fiddles of the Tsigans; the sourish-sweet liquor, which the Wallachian peasant is accustomed to call wine, had cheered up the hearts of all these robust villagers and dark maidens for the dance; and given fresh vigour to the nasal voices of the old women, to chaunt out their traditional songs, which perhaps Dacian or Roman ears had heard in the days of Decebalus and Trajan.

The twenty leagues we had to travel were performed quickly enough. So long as one is on the smooth surface of the meadow land, the travelling is as rapid as it is easy. The lean and famished horses, holding by nothing but old ropes, whirl the traveller along with extreme swiftness. The postillions, perched on their high wooden saddles, sling round their shoulders the rope, which serves as a bridle, and, howling and gesticulating like madmen, urge to an unceasing gallop this herd of half-wild horses

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FAMILY OF TSIGANES (WALLACHIA).

harnessed to a single carriage. From time to time the grotesque equipage plunges through the tall grass of the meadows; and the horses, profiting by the occasion, seize a few dried-up blades, and devour them as they run. On reaching the end of a stage, the team is soon freed from its harness, which, as we mentioned, consists of two traces and a girth, into which the animal passes his head of his own accord, and withdraws it in the same manner. When this is done, the drivers, to express their satisfaction, and by way of refreshing their steeds, as they say, violently tug the ears and the forelocks of each horse, and then leave them panting, to repair their vigour upon the seared grass of the plain.

On our arrival at Bukharest, the evening was already far advanced, and we experienced all the annoyance of having to seek lodgings in an immense city, through dark and tortuous streets, accompanied by guides to whom it was impossible to make ourselves understood. The club of the nobles, established in the theatre, had been pointed out to us as the only place where we could find a lodging, but we were nearly being refused all accommodation by the host; and it was only by dint of the most urgent entreaties, and after waiting out the performance, that we were enabled to take possession of two rooms, so close to the theatre, that we had only to open a door to find ourselves upon the stage. It

would, however, be ungracious to complain of this side-scene hospitality, as, notwithstanding the strange character of our apartments, we soon received visits in them from the most distinguished personages.

Scarcely were we installed, when an officer, dispatched by His Highness the Prince Regent, came to place himself at our disposal. At the same instant, a permanent guard was set over our equipages, standing out in the middle of a large court-yard, to protect them from the rapacity of the Tsigans. These wandering beggars, ever on the track of strangers, had already found means, in the confusion of our arrival, to appropriate a few articles of no great value.

We should advise the weary traveller who comes into Bukharest to let his first visit be to the capital Turkish baths, of which we were now about to test the quality. These establishments, which are situated in the quarter of the town watered by the Dombovitza, unite all the salutary effects of vapour and shampooing, with every refinement by which the Eastern people have learnt to administer to the physical wants of existence. If the prophet was wise enough to exalt a maxim of health to the sanctity of a religious duty, the true believers, on their side, have been sensual enough to render it one of those pleasures such as they love them, and to which they abandon their whole being with such exquisite

delight. There is nothing can compare with the gentle languor that creeps over the wearied limbs, when after leaving that warm atmosphere of vapour, and undergoing a course of vigorous shampooing and aromatic frictions, you find yourself stretched out upon a soft couch, wrapped in sheets of the most delicate and yielding texture, while the pipe breathes forth its aromatic perfumes around you, and from time to time iced water, tinted with preserved roses, imparts its fragant coolness to your lips; and yet this perfect beatitude of all the senses may be purchased in Bukharest at the most moderate price. It is to be hoped that the usages of Vienna and Paris, which daily tend to spread themselves more and more in this capital, will not interfere with the only two things which do honour to the Turks, and which alone, in Eastern civilization, are to be envied by Europe, namely, the bath, and the coffee-house.

The few visits we paid and received during the first day already began to give us a general notion of Bukharest and its inhabitants. We were treated with such marked politeness, that from the first hour the whole of our time was engaged during our stay, and would have been so, had our sojourn extended even beyond the time we were enabled to devote to their pressing hospitality.

The reigning prince had been gracious enough to appoint an hour for our reception in the evening; in

the meanwhile, like thorough foreigners, we proceeded to pass in review the fashionable world of this capital, which was taking the air at its accustomed place, and in its ordinary every-day equipages; for in this city every one keeps his own carriage. This much frequented promenade is little worthy the popularity it enjoys, for it is nothing more than a great dusty street, full of ruts. When you have reached the extremity of the street and of the city, you are not the less exposed to a good shaking on an ill-kept road, where an avenue of trees of three years' growth give hopes of a cool shade for the Wallachians of the next century, but leave the promenaders of the present day a prey to the slant rays of the sun. A flat, marshy country is the sole prospect which greets the eye around this walk. Nevertheless, the string of carriages along the road is long and close, and here, every evening, are punctually to be found the *élite* of this motley people, which is daily changing its manners no less than its costume. In the same coach in which you see women doing their best to imitate, in their dress and manners, the elegance and coquetry of the Viennese, you may also observe the black coat which represents young Wallachia facing the noble and venerable countenance of some white-bearded Boyard with the monumental dome-shaped cap imported by the Greeks of Phanar. On the box of these carriages, sits gravely

at one time a coachman in the Russian costume, muffled up in his long kaftan; at another, a Turk with a large turban, or an Arnout with floating white skirts. This rapid procession, in short, whirling through the dust,—the plumes, the turbans and veils, passing and crossing each other about you, form quite an extraordinary spectacle, which, by its novelty, fixes the attention.

Meanwhile, we had betaken ourselves to the palace of the Hospodar. Several officers were waiting the prince's return from the drive, and we found among them a Frenchman, Viscount Grammont Louvigny, of whose extreme politeness we had already had proofs. The apartment into which we were ushered possessed no other ornament than a portrait of the Russian general, Kisseleff, a popular portrait, if ever there were one, as that of a good and brave man, whose revered features are to be met with on the most humble, as well as the proudest walls in the country. In a short time, the Hospodar was announced, and the gracious and cordial reception with which we were favoured, gave us an opportunity of judging of this prince's various acquirements. A flowing and intelligent conversation on all the different topics then occupying the attention of society in the western world, proved to us that in this capital, only to be reached through deserts, the most refined thought, and the onward march of the times, find sound and rational

interpreters. Could we venture to sketch, in a few touches, the character and personal appearance of the Hospodar of Wallachia, we should say, that Prince Ghika, who reigns under the name of Alexander the Second, with the manners and address of a nobleman, possesses a mild and grave countenance, which at once inspires confidence. His conversation is precise, yet fluent, and betokens a highly cultivated mind. The prince, who appears to have arrived at the middle age, has remained single: he sets an example of social virtues, no less than of zeal for the public good. The reigning Princes of Wallachia have adopted the civilian dress of Europe, and the uniform of the Russian Empire. They make use habitually of the French language, which they speak with remarkable fluency.

It was not till subsequently that we had the honour of being presented to the two brothers of the Hospodar. Prince Michael Ghika, the eldest of the family, is invested with the office of Minister of the Interior, under the title of Grand Vornik, and he has been raised to the dignity of Bano, which is the first rank in the state after the Hospodar. Prince Constantine Ghika, the youngest of the three brothers, is at the head of military affairs, and, as Grand Spathar, commands the little army of Wallachia.

According to Turkish usage, we were offered pipes

and coffee, and we did not take leave of the prince till a lengthened interview had given us more than one opportunity of remarking how solid and various was the information, how elevated the views of this sovereign, ruling over a country whose institutions are as yet to be established.

On our return from the palace, we found those of our travelling companions whom we had left on the Danube. They had just arrived, worn out with fatigue, and we lost no time in pointing out to them the lodgings which, with the greatest difficulty, we had discovered in a neighbouring quarter. I give their own account of what had detained them, and what they had seen at Giourjévo after we had taken our departure, clearing the post-house of all its horses.

"When," said they, "we saw ourselves obliged to remain at Giourjévo, having neither horses nor carriages to take us to Bukharest, our first step was to secure at the post-house a sufficiency of the national carriages to convey our persons and the lumbering apparatus which was left in our charge. Nothing can be more simple or more novel than the Wallachian carriages, called in the country *caroussi*. They consist of a kind of small trough made of wooden bars, placed upon four wheels, more or less circular, and two wooden axles, without a nail, or a single particle of ironwork. This receptacle,

abundantly supplied with hay, too often in a state of fermentation, can accommodate one traveller—seldom two. The sufferer, crouching down upon his haunches, with nothing to lean upon or support him, cleaves the air, clutching the sides of this brutal equipage as a raw horseman clings to the mane of a runaway horse. These carriages can only be compared to the telègues of Russia, to which, however, they are far inferior. This mode of transport, which combines all the inconveniences a traveller endeavours to avoid, is, nevertheless, the only one fit for use to be had in Wallachia. We were to start at midnight, when the returned post horses would have sufficiently rested. We had, therefore, time enough to inspect the town, and enjoy the spectacle of the rejoicings, the noise of which filled the air.

"Giourjévo was a Turkish fortress, until the treaty of 1829 transferred it to Wallachia. At that epoch the generous intervention of Russia raised from their degraded condition the principalities which had been crushed by extortionate levies. Barbarism re-crossed the Danube; but, ere leaving Giourjévo, the Mussulman dismantled its ramparts, and consequently this town is a mixture of ruins and new buildings. The symmetrical plan of the modern constructions carries its right lines without deviation through the irregular mass of the old eastern buildings. This is why unfinished streets, and plots of ground encumbered

with old building materials, will long continue to disfigure the regular design of the modern Giourjévo. The quarter of the town contiguous to the Danube is of recent construction. Several pretty houses, and a church dedicated to St. Peter, consecrated that very day, gave it altogether a European aspect. Further on, is found a circular space, in the centre of which stands a tower. This place represents Giourjévo. Here all the shops and cafés are collected with their groups of smokers, seated in a circle before the door: here, too, we find two or three hotels, with fallacious sign boards, in which the only supper a traveller can get is a sorbet, and the only bed a billiard table. This piece of furniture, which is as ill fitted for one use as the other, is common in Wallachia.

"Meanwhile the town was deserted, the whole population having betaken themselves to an immense plain with neither verdure nor shade. Here whole families and villages of Wallachians arrived in troops, with numerous bands of Bohemians. The almost innumerable crowd of traders, dancers, musicians, and curious spectators attracted by the festival, which was to last several days, continued thus to swell unceasingly. On reaching the ground where the festival is held, the teams are unharnessed, a bivouac is formed, and a movable city, in which all the various races to be found in Wallachia

are mingled together, continues incessantly extending its dimensions. The Wallachians encamped beneath large awnings of white cloth, flanked by their lumbering cars, near which the buffaloes or oxen by which they are drawn were seen ruminating; while the tribes of Tsigans were recognisable by the sombre hue of their tents, striped with black.

"On all sides arose volumes of smoke from the fires, over which was being prepared the simple food of these people, who appeared so eager for the pleasures of the festival; while beneath all the tents, men and women were dressing to make a figure in the dance. The stout daughters of Wallachia were distinguishable by their velvet caps, glittering with long chaplets of sequins or paras, the sum total of their dowries. Sometimes, the cap which was the most heavily laden with ducats, and the best calculated to attract suitors, oppressed with its weight a repulsive or sickly-looking head; while more than one gentle and refined countenance, on the other hand, was only adorned by a scanty garland of paras. This is an epitome of the history of dowries in all the civilised nations of the world. The young Tsigan girls are remarkable for a peculiar kind of beauty, which still exhibits the characteristics of the race from which these wandering tribes are asserted by some authors to have descended; the supple and lithe figures, and delicate

hands and feet of the women on the borders of the Ganges, reappear among them.

" It would be difficult to convey an idea of the bustle and noise going on among the lively crowd assembled at this fair. An apparently endless plain, over which hung a thick cloud of dust, was covered throughout its extent with tents, booths, cars, and cattle. In the midst of this confused assembly, with no police regulations, yet without disorder, the traders set up their stalls, at which woven fabrics, cloths, skins, and provisions in abundance may be bought. Should there occur any unoccupied space in the midst of this moving crowd, it is immediately taken possession of by the dancers, who form themselves into a large ring, and commence turning, now to the right, now to the left, in a slow, marked measure, which ever and anon becomes more animated. In this dance the men and women hold each other by the hand, the Tsigan minstrels standing in the middle, and apparently taking a great deal of trouble, and exerting themselves violently, to execute their unending tunes. When the dancer has become tired of this diversion, he may leave it as soon as he chooses; and any by-stander desirous of taking part in the dance may introduce himself among the party without ceremony; accordingly, this interminable ball is kept up through a great portion of the night, the Wallachians appearing passion-

ately fond of it. Whatever may be their enthusiasm, however, for this kind of exercise, they practise it with a dignity and decency of deportment truly remarkable. Even the Tsigan girls join in it with a modest and reserved demeanour. It was not unfrequent to see fifty or sixty dancers, dressed in a variety of picturesque costumes, linked together in one circle; and an infinity of these circles were to be found throughout the extent of the plain, turning backwards and forwards round the screeching orchestras of the Bohemians. We took much pleasure in contemplating these simple diversions, which seem impressed with something of an antique severity. After wandering a considerable time among the crowd, we became accustomed, at last, to this atmosphere of din, confused cries, and sounds of bells and musical instruments; but the arrangements for our departure summoned us away, and we returned to the steam-boat agent, who is also the apothecary of the place. We were but too fortunate in confiding ourselves to his courtesy; and as we were enabled to communicate with him by means of the Italian language, this good-natured personage began by prophesying that we should not leave Bukharest on that day: he knew well, he said, the apathy and ill-will of the captain of the post towards strangers. Meanwhile, as we were threatened with getting no dinner, for want of convenient quarters, our

protector conducted us to the purveyor of the Quarantine, where we made a frugal repast, somewhat in the Turkish fashion; after which the honest apothecary, who had had our luggage safely stowed away, offered us the same hospitality, of which a few bundles of hay furnished forth the whole preparation.

"The power of obtaining post horses is only granted in Wallachia, as is the practice in Russia, to the bearer of a permit previously obtained from the superior authorities in the town; and it is necessary to put down the price of the whole journey from one town to another, before this document, called a podorojnaia, and which has to be presented to the captain of the port at each intermediate stage, can be obtained. This being done, the traveller has nothing more to disburse than the gratuity with which he rewards the postillions. To obtain this passport on such a day was no easy matter, for the festival engrossed everything and everybody. The commandant of the place was entirely absorbed in the solemn duties of his office; and his deputies, by way of contrast with the rejoicings of the day, displayed a degree of ill-humour which rendered them unapproachable. Another inconvenience was, that the Wallachian civilisation, in replacing Turkish manners, had not yet driven out of the erst Mahomedan city an annoying and sometimes dangerous bequest; at nightfall, bands of wandering dogs take

possession of every quarter in Giourjévo, and render it difficult to pass through them, especially for strangers. In spite of every obstacle, however, we were thoroughly in order when, at midnight, the post-master in person arrived, with his numerous *caroussi*, to the door of the apothecary.

"Our baggage was already laden, when we found ourselves obliged to give up going, thanks to the obstinacy of the post-master, who refused to take any baggage. It was not till the next day, as had been predicted to us, that we were enabled to start, which we did, placing ourselves pell-mell with our luggage into two great peasant cars, and taking with us no other provisions than two loaves of black bread.

"When we had passed the gates of the city, we found ourselves in a meadow, or rather a large marsh, in which great herds of oxen, horses, buffaloes, and sheep were grazing; we scarcely knew whither we were taken; all that we could tell with certainty was, that we were proceeding to the northward, but no other sign or indication was there by which we could identify the road leading to the capital. The roads across these wilds are as uncertain as the caprice of man. The space is broad, ruts abound in every direction, and the peasant elects, according to his fancy, between the turf and the bare earth. Our first halt was near a well, in the depths of

a small valley. In Wallachia, wells are common, and invariably constructed in the same manner; the trunk of a tree, hollowed out, lines the interior, and prevents the outward walls from falling in; the great number and large dimensions of these natural cylinders, converted to this purpose, afford an idea of the magnificence of the vegetation in the mountains whence they are brought. The water is brought up by means of a lever, and the bucket employed is a block of oak, scooped out.

"By degrees, after leaving Giourjévo, the country becomes less barren, and a few tufts of young trees begin to cover the soil. For so many years the unfortunate Wallachian peasants, hunted like wild beasts, had seen their harvests pillaged, and their fields devastated by the Turks, that it is easy to imagine how much they dreaded the neighbourhood of their oppressors. They had, therefore, left a desert of six leagues between the Danube and their first farms, as a space abandoned to the inroads of the depredators—an accursed region, overrun every year by savage bands issuing from Giourjévo, to ruin every new settlement, and drive the panic-stricken husbandmen towards the mountains.

"We had to cross two or three muddy rivers, and at each of these passages we blessed the post-master for his capricious refusal, for if we had taken those low and frail equipages, our baggage must infallibly have been

swamped, and ourselves perhaps upset in these dangerous fords. More than once we met with large holes into which the horses sunk, dragging after them our massive carts. In these difficult conjunctures, the cries of our conductors became positive howlings. Sometimes the horses, for a moment, stood still, powerless, and the postillion voiceless; then, after incredible efforts, the heavy machine, dragged out at last from the abyss, issued heavily out of the river, leaving behind a long trace of blackish water and liquid mud.

"After having passed through several poor hamlets, whose wretched huts denoted the most abject misery, we came to a town where we again beheld with pleasure well constructed houses. A fine monastery, the entrance to which is surmounted by a tower, faces a tavern of unusual dimensions. The walls of both these edifices have been decorated by an itinerant Raphael, who has represented a most extraordinary variety of subjects, and in such numbers as certainly to show a prodigious fecundity. This daring artist has attempted to reproduce, on these whitened walls, the whole scale of creation; he has first pourtrayed the principal species of the animal kingdom, not omitting even the kangaroo of Australia, who certainly could not have expected this honour; then coming to the human species, to the genus *homo*, he has delighted in representing the master-piece of creation in his most magnificent

attitudes. Here, were fine gentlemen and ladies; superb pashas, with black-pointed beards; imposing boyards, with their gigantic kalpaks; then Wallachian soldiers in full costume, and the whole crowned with foliage, surrounded with garlands, and bordered with fantastic trees.

A large see-saw, which threatened to hurl each of the players into the air, as, in their turn, they balanced themselves on its summit, was erected under the walls of the convent. The Wallachians are said to have a remarkable predilection for this kind of exercise. In the great saloon of the tavern, which is also covered with brilliant frescoes by the hand of the Wallachian Rembrandt, a gipsy was accompanying on the violin a youth who was singing a slow, solemn air, in a voice as true as it was clear. Judging from the expression of the music, and the emotion of his numerous audience, this chaunt, which consisted of two simple and touching movements, must have been one of those melancholy ballads in which all primitive people have told their traditions, and related their victories or their misfortunes. The Wallachians, those descendants of Rome so long despised, must have preserved some of those melodies, which are the consolation of bondage, the last echoes of a happier destiny. Such, at least, were our impressions on hearing this simple air, sung by the poor Tsigan lad.

"On quitting this town, the name of which is Dérestié, we crossed a bridge of boats, and night soon overtook us; we did not reach the gates of Bukharest till late in the evening, for our horses, jaded by a journey of twenty leagues, slackened their pace, and our conductors, now quite hoarse, had given up their noisy driving. Conducted, at first, into a khan, or caravanserai, of the most repulsive aspect, it was only by the aid of the Jews, a serviceable people, if ever there were one, that we were enabled to discover traces of the expedition which had arrived on the previous day. At last, after much trouble, and thanks to the thoughtfulness of our fore-runners, as well as the attention of a captain who had been sent by the Hospodar, we found ourselves at midnight established in the house of an Italian, where each could enjoy the delights of a bed consisting of planks laid across tressels."

The 13th of July found us all together in the capital of Wallachia, where our only difficulty was to choose among the many ways of spending every moment of our time usefully and agreeably. The first care in Bukharest is to secure an equipage: the great extent of the town renders this precaution necessary; and what renders it still more imperious, fashion requires it; for no person of any rank in society can be seen on foot in the streets. This custom, and that of the cloak,

which is worn on all occasions, as a protection against the dust, are anything but convenient to a stranger, anxious to see and observe everything. We soon set out, each on our own way, through this large city, whose populous streets are lined with numerous shops, in which activity is the substitute for wealth. One entire quarter is occupied by fur warehouses and tailors' work-shops. The streets, of unequal width, are irregularly built and ill paved, many not having pavement at all. The houses, for the most part, are little better than barns of rotten timber, among which are seen edifices of the most pretentious style of architecture. Unfortunately, the materials used for building in this country are of too fragile a nature to resist the climate; and the finest houses in Bukharest are, in consequence, wofully dilapidated in their exterior, notwithstanding their luxurious display of flowery ornaments. What strikes one most in this town, is the variety of costumes and countenances — a fresh type occurring every moment, amidst this large population. The people here go about the town in a much more brisk and busy way than would be expected in the lower orders, who have retained their oriental character. The artisans, porters and working men of Bukharest do not seem to be afraid of work; but that which gives peculiar animation to this place, is the immense number of Jews who inhabit it: active,

insinuating, and never discouraged, they disseminate life and movement about them; for they spare neither trouble nor fatigue, in the hope of obtaining the smallest recompense. Thus, the moment you perceive the broad-brimmed hat, and black rusty gown of a Jew, you may reckon upon commanding, if you please, the services of a clever, intelligent, indefatigable servant, ready to submit to everything—contempt or anger. You may, without fear, ask anything of this man: he will answer you in German, in Italian—perhaps in as many as four languages; and for a few piastres—putting aside all other business—his industry, his ingenuity, his silence, his patience, his eloquence, his virtues, his vices, his soul and his body—all are yours. And if for a momentary service, on some slight occasion, you have once employed an Israelite, do not imagine it an easy thing to get rid of him: he is henceforth yours, or rather, you are his: he will never leave you; he will follow you at twenty paces distance in the street, and at the distance of twenty paces will divine what you want. He will take his seat on the threshold of the house you have just entered, and on coming out, you will meet his wily, respectful glance, soliciting some command. He sleeps on your staircase—under your carriage; becomes the servant of your own people; greets your dog in the streets; and is never absent for an instant: though you

may have repelled him with roughness twenty times, he still persists and perseveres in his attentions. After thus rebuffing him, you may find yourself some day, at some particular moment, for some passing whim, in want of a Jew. Scarcely have you formed the wish, than he appears, as though starting up from the earth, bending with his accustomed humility, in that peculiar attitude of the Jews, which is neither erect nor bowed down, with submissive air and attentive ears. This moment is the triumph of the Jew: he has purchased it at the cost of forty-eight hours of incessant watching, fatigue and humiliation. Scarcely have you spoken, when your wishes are obeyed—obeyed with punctuality, acuteness, and respect; and when, after all this trouble and self-denial, the poor bearded and tattered sprite fingers his cherished recompense—that coin which he has dogged, which he has invoked, whose humble varlet he has been for two days—you see, by his grateful expression, that he commends you to the gracious protection of Abraham and Isaac, and that he is ready to undergo the same trouble and fatigue for a similar reward.

A number of interesting visits which we all paid together took up the whole of this day. We saw the Museum of Bukharest, which is specially devoted to natural history, and takes up a space daily growing in extent, as the collections, which have not long been commenced,

increase in importance. The public library is established in the same building, and is composed of about seven thousand volumes. This scanty nucleus awaits further additions, by which the departments of science and history, the latter especially, will require to be better represented. On taking leave of these interesting establishments, already so prosperous, when it is considered how recent has been the regeneration of the principality, I felt great pleasure in presenting the mineralogical collection with a specimen of our Siberian platina, which, I trust, will remain as a memento of the kind reception we met with on the occasion of our visit. We were conducted thence to the college. The appearance of the spacious and commodious buildings, and of the young students dressed in a pretty uniform, at once gave a favourable impression of this institution.

In a state of such limited extent as Wallachia, public charges, henceforward to be conferred on the most capable, will become the object of a competition, which must have a good effect on the education of youth.

The wise intentions of Prince Alexander Ghika will tend to endow the country with a nursery of enlightened young men, destined to vie with the youth of other European countries. If we reflect from what a state these unfortunate Turkish provinces have emerged—what they have done, and what they are yet destined to achieve,

it is impossible to withhold our acknowledgments from the man who has laid the noble seeds of civilisation in these principalities—General Kisseleff—one of those creative geniuses so rarely met with, whose far-sighted benevolence is able to penetrate into the future. Nor can we avoid also acknowledging, that the plans of the General have been bequeathed to worthy successors, and that the rising generation of Wallachia appears well prepared to put them into practice.

On this head let me be allowed to remark how painful it has been to us to see travellers, after being received, as was the case with us, with that warmth of hospitality and devotion to the pleasure and comfort of the foreign visitor, writing, on their return, accounts so harsh in their criticism, and so forgetful of the mild and polished manners of their hosts. These travellers who, like us, visited every part of Bukharest, appear far too eager to note the sores, as yet imperfectly healed, which the present condition of society has inherited from the ancient order of things. If, in the freedom of conversations too soon allowed to become confidential, our predecessors were able to discover the existence of these evils, what good purpose is attained by disclosing them to Europe, who will not call the principalities to account for their listless attitude during the long period of moral torpor, which they have happily shaken off, but for the

manner in which they have employed the years since their restoration to that better state, whose re-invigorating effects they have already experienced? Now, in this point of view, it is perfectly true to state, that no European community has been more active in working out its way towards the right goal, through all the obstacles with which its path has been encumbered. In proof of this, examples might be cited of more than one important reform adopted and incorporated into their habits of life. After all, our somewhat critical narrators, who have paid for the hospitality of Bukharest in the coin of their witty sarcasms, will not deny, so well are they acquainted with history, that there are nations whose moral and political regeneration date only fifty years back, and who are scarcely better endowed with principles.

Having come to the end of this digression, let us return to our visits. Dr. Mayer, a German physician, an intelligent person, and a man of the world, showed us over the military hospital which is under his direction. This establishment, contained in a building not originally constructed for a hospital, leaves much to be desired as regards situation and salubrity. The supply of air in the wards was deficient. The number of sick was considerable, febrile affections being common in the country, and raging at particular seasons of the year, although considerably mitigated by the sanitary regulations to which

the soldiery are subjected. The large hospital of Panteleïmon, situated in one of the approaches to the city, appeared to us much better adapted to its purposes. This establishment, instituted by a number of philanthropic subscribers, presents a suite of spacious apartments, in which light and air, the life and hope of the sick man, find free admission. The only objection to be made is, that the large space occupied by the administrative staff is lost to the patients, and takes up a room which might be employed for the relief of a few more unfortunate people. The bedsteads used at Panteleïmon are of iron, while those of the military hospital are of wood. While visiting the latter place, we beheld the frightful ravages of a horrible disease, not to be mentioned, originating, for the most part, in the unbridled vices of capital cities. On our return from these excursions, we met the reigning prince, who stopped his carriage, and invited the entire party to come on the following evening to his residence, situated, at that season of the year, some distance from the city.

The morning of the 15th of July was devoted to visiting the General Assembly, the name given to the chamber of representatives of Wallachia. Prince Michael Ghika and Prince Cantacuzène were kind enough to be our introducers. The hall in which the deliberations are held, is a building connected with the metropolitan

church, standing on a hill which commands the city of Bukharest, and forms a most picturesque site. This church, like all the others in the capital, is surrounded by spacious cloisters, the entrance to which is by two solid gateways, surmounted by towers, an arrangement which formerly enabled them to carry on a protracted defence. The metropolitan church is not an important monument; it is surmounted by three belfries, the domes of which, as well as the roofing of the church, are in metal; and the whole group of buildings is covered with a coat of dazzling whitewash. In the front of the edifice, which is at one of its narrowest ends, stands a peristyle, the interior of which is adorned with a profusion of paintings of the most varied description. The nave of the church is narrow, and thickly covered with gilding and images; the screen which shuts off the sanctuary is decked with the richest ornaments. The light struggles into the vaulted interior through narrow elongated windows.

In a building forming part of the cloisters stands the Hall of Assembly; access to which is through a small ante-room. Within this hall, remarkable for its simplicity, like that in which the Diet of Hungary assemble, are held the deliberations of the Boyards; it is long and narrow, and at one end stands, surmounted by a canopy, an arm-chair, occupied by the Metropolitan, who is the constitutional president of the

TYP. J. CLAYE.

METROPOLITAN CHURCH OF BUKHAREST.

Assembly. The forty-three members composing the Assembly were almost all present; among them might be seen one or two old Boyards, retaining the ample and majestic costume worn by them under the Turkish rule; they still keep to their beards and voluminous kalpaks. The military chiefs take part in the deliberations, dressed in their uniforms, and wearing their swords. The members speak from the places where they are seated in front of a table covered with green cloth, and the ministers are not separated from the rest of the Assembly. The order of the day was a debate on the subject of certain modifications in the organic law, or constitution of the country, having regard more particularly to ordinances enacted during the interval between the sessions of the Legislative Assembly. M. Stirbey, the Minister of Justice, sustained almost alone, yet without apparent fatigue, the whole weight of the debate. However warm the arguments might grow during this Parliamentary discussion, none of the orators were observed to outstep the forms of a polite conversation. That portion of the hall which is appropriated to the public contained but few spectators; these generally remain standing, but as soon as we entered, several Boyards were courteous enough to have seats placed for us. It is only within a short time that the deliberations of the Assembly have been made public; and

even up to the present day, the public journals have not yet obtained permission to report the debates. On quitting the hall, we were accompanied by one of the members, Colonel Philipesko, who belongs to one of the most ancient families in the country. This officer, who received an excellent education in France, commands the 1st Regiment of Wallachian troops, and presents to his native city the remarkable example of solid acquirements allied with perfect elegance and grace of manners. It was in company with this good-natured guide that we visited the various portions of the edifice and its admirable site. From this height, Bukharest is seen to stretch out towards a distant horizon; in fact, this city, interspersed as it is with a number of gardens, covers an immense area; and, with its many-coloured roofs, lofty towers rising from more than sixty churches, and verdant tufts mingling with the mass of buildings, presents a most picturesque appearance. In the evening we obeyed the invitation of the Hospodar, and had the honour of being received at his residence of Scouffa, which is situated a few versts from Bukharest, on the banks of the Dombovitza. The house is small, and of the humblest description; but the gardens, which stretch out into a small vale, through which the river flows, render this summer residence far preferable even to the house occupied by the prince in the city. Bukharest

no longer possesses any palace for the Wallachian princes. In 1812, that which then existed, and which was very vast, was burnt down. The Hospodar now resides in a large and splendid mansion, his own property. The interview we had with him passed off, like the first, in the most interesting conversation, in which the correct and practical judgment, and unchanging benevolence of the prince, appeared in the most favourable light. As on the first occasion, also, the Hospodar was surrounded by his family, the princesses, his sisters-in-law, and a large number of officers. The elegant uniform of the latter only served as a foil to the simple attire of the prince, who wore a black dress coat, and a waistcoat with large lappels folded back. This fashion is said to be peculiar to himself; and, indeed, we saw it adopted by no other person. At night every one proceeded to the city, which was soon reached, and the little court visited the theatre, of which, had we chosen, we might have done the honours; for the theatre was, as it were, the ante-chamber of our apartment. A few scenes of *Semiramide*, and a very lively German comedy, were the performances of the evening.

The next day the garrison of Bukharest was reviewed by Prince Constantine Ghika. The manœuvres, executed by these troops with great precision, are all upon the Russian model. We were invited by the Spathar to be

present at this review, and were stationed by his side, when an unfortunate occurrence interrupted the proceedings for a while, and caused much anxiety among the spectators. The prince, who had remained too near the fire of the troops, was struck in the face by a cartridge. The wound which it occasioned—a slight one, Heaven be thanked!—and a burn which might become serious, were immediately dressed by our companion, Dr. Léveillé; whereupon the Spathar mounted his horse, and proceeded with the review.

A dinner, to which the Hospodar graciously invited us, brought us in company with the *élite* of society at Bukharest; the *réunion* took place beneath the fine trees at Scouffa, in a broad space inaccessible to the rays of the sun. During the repast, which was preceded by the schalet, a slight collation taken also in Russia previous to sitting down to dinner, two bands of music, concealed behind the foliage, played alternately the national airs of Wallachia, and the singular melodies of the Tsigans. The orchestra of the Tsigans, composed, as it is, of discordant instruments, nevertheless produces effects which could never be obtained by means of the regular and correct harmonies to which European ears are accustomed; as regards the measure, it is unequal, hopping, halting, and breaks out into unexpected changes. After dinner, Wallachian dances were executed, and we

were so charmed with the severe precision and perfect *ensemble* of the dancers, that the prince was kind enough to prolong these diversions in our favour, and to procure us copies of the airs, so full of originality and simple grace, which we here insert, and which accompany this Roman dance, *Hora Roumaniaska*, as it is called by the people of Wallachia. While the dancers were performing wonders, the Bohemians continued with unflagging spirit their interminable melodies. Two mandolines, two violins, pan pipes, and a sort of muffled bass, constituted the whole instrumental resources of these skilful executants, whose fine brown faces, animated with their musical ardour, produced a charming picture. When we had long enjoyed these rustic diversions, we betook ourselves to the vast and splendid drawing-rooms of M. Philipesko, where an elegant ball had assembled all the *élite* of the dancing folk of Bukharest. I know of no city in Europe in which it is possible to find more agreeable society, or in which there is a better tone, united with the most charming gaiety. This delightful ball was kept up till far in the night, and it was a pleasant sight to see the master of the house, the Aga Philipesko, in his ample Boyard dress, his fine head fringed with a long, silky-white beard, surrounded by a swarm of young and pretty women, whose gauze and ribbons, long tresses, and charming faces, were so well matched with the gentle

physiognomy of the stately old man. It was a faithful emblem of the situation of their country, which has unhesitatingly adopted the pleasures and unrestricted manners of the western world. In vain would the austere boyards oppose this invasion of modern fashions and frivolities; the present generation must have their spacious drawing-rooms, in which the waltz and the mazourka may freely develop their whirling mazes; they must have costumes which will not fetter the graceful movements of the mazourka, nor embarrass the dancer in threading the labyrinth of the French quadrille. And is it not in reason that this youthful race, called upon to take share in the civilisation which is invading the east, should adopt whatever seems to befit it, from all the elegancies and refinements, no less than the gloomy political ideas now settling upon their country? Soon enough will come the cares of public life—the anxieties of business, of industry, and speculation! Wallachia has been long enough enchained, to be allowed a short time for breath, ere it enter upon the stern career of a nation bent upon governing itself. To a nation thus awakening, it may be permitted to say, sometimes: "To-morrow we will think of serious business."

Such was our existence at Bukharest; pleasures, visits, hospitable meetings, interesting excursions, and clear and lively observations on all that struck our minds or

attracted our eyes. In all quarters, it was a struggle who should render us the most valuable services: the most illustrious and honourable inhabitants of this good city placed themselves at our disposal, to increase our traveller's budget; and it would have been scarcely possible to have employed five fleeting days more profitably than we did. As soon as we had set our own personal notes in order, and collected those furnished us by several enlightened persons (at the head of whom we were kindly allowed to place the Hospodar, and his minister, M. Stirbey), we threw a last parting and grateful glance at this city, which has already become worthy to be numbered among the most interesting capitals. For the last time, we strolled through its tortuous streets, once more halting before the churches, with their twisted columns and elegant friezes, resplendent with coloured medallions and holy images; we hastily paid another visit to the old quarters of the city, and to the public drive of the fashionable world; we breathed the fragrant air of the cafés, where the smokers assemble, and the journals of every nation gratify the curiosity of a public, greedy of the political news of the world; and having done all this, we bethought ourselves of our departure.

With respect to the statistics of Bukharest, we are enabled to give here the amount of population, according to the last census:—

	Inhabitants of both sexes.
Boyards	2,598
Persons composing the households of Boyards	5,757
Inhabitants of various classes	46,604
Lay Priests	256
Their families and households	1,058
Monks	137
Jews, their families and households	2,583
[This figure represents almost the total number of Jews established in Wallachia; but very few are found in the rural districts, as they do not practice agriculture.]	
Foreigners	1,795
	60,788

In this number are omitted ten or twelve thousand individuals, who have no permanent domicile in the city, and only come there from time to time, for their business or pleasure.

There are in the city of Bukharest:

Houses	10,074
Monasteries	26
Churches	95
Printing Establishments	3
Hospitals	2
Journals:—*The National Museum*, and *The Wallachian Courier*	2
Society for Literary Publications	1
School of Arts and Trades, for Soldiers	1

The ordinary food of the people consists of porridge, made of the meal of Indian wheat, or millet—a sort

of polenta: meat or salt fish are almost unknown to them. Their principal spirituous beverage is a brandy distilled from plums.

The city of Bukharest is divided into five districts, each taking its name from one of the five colours—yellow, red, green, blue and black. The Aga is the head of the police, and under his orders are five commissioners, one for each district; these superintend a greater or less number of sub-commissioners, according to the extent of the district.

After expressing our gratitude to the good and amiable Prince, from whom we parted with very sincere feelings of regret, and after taking leave of his family, and all who had shown us so much kindness, we quitted Bukharest on the 17th of July.

Our caravan was augmented by two carriages, which we had bought in the country: they were light covered carriages, and, as the sequel will show, solid enough for anything.

Forty horses were procured for us, and placed along our route; and the generous attention of the Prince went so far as to send *estaffettes*, to make sure of our being properly supplied: we were accordingly carried along with extreme speed. We first of all traversed a marshy and gloomy tract, and at twelve we forded the Yalomnitza, whose swollen waters rolled rapidly along. The relays

were waiting for us in the open fields. At these isolated stations, a clay hut is the ordinary shelter of the captain of the post. Our lengthy caravan proceeded in this way rapidly over these melancholy steppes, until a succession of heavy showers inundated the whole surrounding country, and rendered our progress slower and more laborious. An escort of gendarmes (*dorobantz*), whom we encountered at one of the stations, galloped by the side of our carriages, and when the roads became bad, kept them up with their hands; showing themselves zealously attentive, whenever any difficulties occurred. Meanwhile, we kept advancing towards the north, and approaching still nearer and nearer a fine chain of mountains, on the summits of which were accumulated heavy black vapours. More than one gang of Tsigans, overtaken by the storm, had pitched their dark tents upon the plain, and were preparing to receive the squall which was threatening to burst upon us. Beneath these smoky retreats might be seen half-clad women and girls, with one or two naked children crouching near them; poor little deformities, with distended bellies and emaciated limbs. The prairie soon became a deep marsh: horses, escort and carriages were wading through water; and now and then, when a ditch presented itself, we had either to make a circuit, or leap it by dint of blows and vociferations. It was a singular sight to

see these four coaches ploughing their way beneath a leaden sky, through inundated meadows, and at every unexpected hole, at every jolt against some obstacle beneath the water, threatening to roll over and remain buried in the mud. During these moments, every one was animated with fresh zeal. The attentive *dorobantz* lent a timely assistance to each endangered carriage; and the postillions addressed their foaming steeds no longer with vociferations, but in the mildest language, and using words of encouragement in an almost fraternal tone; for indeed these unfortunate animals quite exceeded their strength during this long and difficult journey. At length we reached Bouzéo, in the midst of roaring thunder and a dense torrent of rain, through which we could scarcely descry the green belfries and white walls of the vast abbey, the fitting residence of a bishop who is one of the wealthiest prelates of Wallachia. Our escort had fortunately obtained a reinforcement; and their assistance was at once put into requisition in crossing a torrent, the bed of which was not yet quite filled up by the rain. As we approached the Bouzéo, however, which flows between very steep banks, it was much feared that my carriage would be left behind: it had, in the first instance, crossed the torrent in safety, but on reaching the other side, a slippery steep presented itself, which it required half-an-hour of struggles and

vociferations, and more than twenty horses, to ascend. We had previously been shut up in a sort of ark, but afterwards made our way out by the carriage door, on the backs of the horses, which we used as stepping-stones, to escape a frightful bed of mud two feet deep.

At Rimnik we were to find beds. A Wallachian gentleman, M. Nikolesko, informed of our arrival, was ordering preparations for our reception, at the very time that we were inundated with the waters of heaven, and almost buried in the muddy depths of the plain. Unfortunately, as we approached the Rimnik, which we had to cross before we could gain this much desired shelter, we found the river so turbulent, that not one of our guides would venture across it during so dark a night; accordingly, we had to resign ourselves to spend the night in our carriages, and in the hovel of a peasant, who could only offer us a quantity of straw, which no horse having any pretensions to English blood would have had for his litter. Towards three in the morning, the sky had in some measure cleared, the river had become fordable, and it was not long before we reached Rimnik.

This mischance prevented our profiting by the hospitable preparations so kindly made for our reception. Arriving at so inconvenient an hour, we felt the greatest scruple to disturb the household of M. Nikolesko, and

took fresh horses to proceed without delay to the Moldavian frontier.

The residence of the noble Boyard appeared vast and sumptuous. It is built in the Italian style, with open galleries. Rimnik itself is a considerable town, and possesses a castle built of bricks, in the Turkish style. It was here that Souvoroff engaged with Mustapha Pasha, and carried off a victory which won him the title of Count of Rimnik. On the 18th, at daybreak, the weather had become fine; the plains wore an appearance of freshness charming to the eye, and a grateful sun warmed our benumbed limbs. We soon forgot the fatigues of this detestable night, and arrived at Fokschani, where the president of the district, M. George Razo, received us with the most pressing marks of politeness.

Fokschani forms the last limit of the Wallachian territory. A small stream in the midst of this city, the Milkove, over which there is a wooden bridge, marks the common boundary of the two principalities. The situation is favourable to trade; and this little town appears to be in no want of traders, more especially Jews. The Hotel de France, kept by a Frenchman, accommodated a portion of our party; while the president of the district honoured me with the hospitality of his own house in the Wallachian quarter of the town. The Ispravnik, or chief of the police, united with this superior

functionary in offering us his services. The district of which Fokschani forms a part, is called Poutna, and contains twenty-five thousand families. A French missionary is established on this frontier; he professes the Roman Catholic faith, to which twenty churches are devoted in Wallachia, and sixty in Moldavia. This morose priest, on once more meeting with Frenchmen, instead of giving himself up to the very natural pleasure of hearing about his distant country, preferred entertaining his compatriots with endless complaints of the men and things of the country in which he had been established for several years. With such feelings, life, in these distant and solitary regions, must be sad indeed.

A favourable opportunity appeared now to present itself for classifying the documents with which our amiable hosts at Bukharest had enriched us; and before quitting Wallachia, we arranged them in the order which appeared most fitting to give our readers an idea of the country we had just travelled through. Six days spent in the territories of this principality were, doubtless, not sufficient to have allowed us to collect, from our own observations, information sufficiently complete on this country; nevertheless, we purpose, in the following simple statements, to put to use, in the first instance, the fruits of a special course of reading carried on during the leisure hours left us by our journey down

the Danube; and next, the result of our conversations with a number of well-informed persons, with whom it was our good fortune to meet at Bukharest.

If we devote a few pages to the history of the ancient Wallachian people, it is not that we have any intention to enter more seriously than our subject will allow into the question of their origin. But, when we consider the distinguishing traits of these people — the empire which the memory of their ancient condition still exercises over them—keeping in view those Roman traditions handed down from a period not less than eighteen centuries back, it would be almost cruel to dispute their glorious origin, traceable to the Dacians and the Romans. Moreover, we have no inclination to call into question the genuineness of those Dacians sculptured in marble on Trajan's column, and bearing so strong a resemblance to the Wallachians of the present day. Let us, therefore, leave the question of their origin, and come at once to the history of the principality. The following is, in a few words, what we have been able to collect from books on the ancient history of this country.

Towards the beginning of our era, the regions now divided under the names of Wallachia, Moldavia, and Transylvania, formed the kingdom of those terrible Dacians so frequently mentioned in the odes of Horace,

and who were descended from the Scythians, or Sarmatians. They were for a long time so formidable, that when led by Decebalus, one of their kings, Rome was alarmed, and Domitian accepted the terms of a disgraceful peace. Trajan, to revenge this defeat, twice led his victorious legions to the shores of the Danube; and to this epoch belong the curious vestiges previously spoken of, as well as the bridge so daringly conceived, the remains of which are seen not far from Skéla. So soon as Dacia was subjected, Roman colonies took possession of the territory so long plunged in barbarism, and it was governed by one of the Roman prætors.

This state of things continued up to the third century, at which time an invasion of Goths and Huns fell upon Dacia; but the Roman Empire was already tottering to its fall, and Aurelian contented himself with recalling his colonists, to whom he assigned other lands in Mœsia. Wrested from the grasp of Rome, these countries shortly fell a prey to the Huns (they were driven back after the death of Attila into Scythia), to the Gepidi, who treated with the Romans; the Lombards, who, under Justinian, marched to the conquest of Italy; and of the Avari, or White Huns, who, according to some historians, dared to threaten Byzantium, and were destroyed by Heraclius.

From the seventh to the ninth century, we find ancient Dacia occupied by the Slavonians and the

Bulgarians, who had crossed the Danube to take possession of these fertile lands, and if we may rely on certain writers, it is exactly to the period of the Slavonian invasion, that we are to refer the origin of the name Wallach, which is given to these people. The Slavonians, they assert, were accustomed to designate the Romans by the generic name Vlacci, or Vlassi; what can be less astonishing, than that they should apply the same name to a people long subject to the government of Rome. On the other hand, the lovers of etymology have discovered an etymon for the word Vlacci, like most of those discovered by them. They suppose that the first Roman colonies were established in Dacia, under the command of a certain Flaccus, and that, accordingly, the whole country was called Flaccia, and the inhabitants Flacci, whence the Vlacci of the Slavonians, and our modern Wallachia. The wisest course, in our opinion, in these questions as to names and origin, is to refer to the inhabitants of the soil, whose local traditions are frequently surer guides than the researches of historians. Accordingly, if we consult the inhabitants themselves of Wallachia as to the origin of their name, they will tell us that the name Wallach, a modern appellation, is only known to history since the twelfth century, and was applied to them by foreigners alone, it being almost unknown to the people of the

principality. These people call themselves Roumann, Roman; they call their native country, Wallachia, Tsara Roumaneska, Roman land. Moreover, the Wallachian arms consist of the Roman eagle, to which a cross has been added; and if, in the last place, we look at the masculine and robust physiognomy of the population, bearing an incredible resemblance to the Transteverini of the present day, if we search into their language, their games, their festivals, we shall find undoubted traces of the glorious origin to which the Wallachians lay claim. And this origin it would be ungracious to dispute; where, besides, would be the evil if this people should still feel within itself a little of that noble pride which has sustained and consoled it through its reverses? The people of Wallachia, of the present day, we will admit, therefore, according to all appearances, are the representatives of the Dacians and the Romans, and the Slavonians, who came into the country as conquerors, constitute the nobility of the land.

Some of these Slavonians, however, taking along with them a certain number of the ancient inhabitants of Dacia, had formed a separate settlement between the river Olt and the Danube, in order to withdraw themselves from the calamities by which these unfortunate regions were so frequently visited. This union of people constituted themselves into a national body, and they

elected a chief, on whom they conferred the title of Ban. Such is the origin of the Banat, that portion of Wallachia which stretches along the Upper Danube, and of which Craïova is the capital.

Up to the thirteenth century, the successive invasions of the Scythians, and of the Tatars of Tchinguis-Khan, had driven away almost the entire ancient population of Dacia. Wallachia and Moldavia, then almost depopulated, placed themselves under the protection of Hungary. About this time, under the reign of Louis I., appeared *Raddoulo-Negro*, or Rodolph the Black, the first voïevode of Wallachia proper. Expelled from the Hungarian provinces by the irruption of the Tatar hordes under Batou-Khan, this chief returned with his dismayed companions to seek a refuge amid the solitudes of their native land.

The provinces then breathed awhile, and once more assumed a stable form under their voïevodes. Gradually reduced to discipline, and skilled in the art of war, the Wallachians became sufficiently powerful to resist all attempts upon their independence on the part of the Hungarian sovereigns; and more than this, they sent an invading army against the Turks, their neighbours, whose territories had been left without defence on the Danubian side. Bajazet checked this enterprise in time, and exacted a tribute from Wallachia.

For the space of nearly a century, the Wallachians now singly, now with the assistance of the Hungarians, attempted in vain to shake off the rude yoke of Turkey, whose hand only fell with a heavier weight upon their country. At length, towards 1520, Mahomed II., having expelled the sovereign of Wallachia, imposed a new voïevode upon the principality, bearing the title of pasha, and concluded a treaty with it, the principal articles of which still remain inherent in the constitution of the country. During the period which succeeded this treaty, the influence of Turkey over Wallachia continued to extend itself more and more; and in 1544, a portion of the Wallachian territory was ceded to the Ottoman Empire, and fortresses were erected on the borders of the Danube, at Ibraïl, Giourjévo, and Tourno, which were occupied by Turkish garrisons.

Such was the state of things when, in 1593, a voïevode called Michael, resolved to shake off the Ottoman yoke. Supported by alliances formed with skilful policy, he held in check the power of the Turks, whom he had driven from their fortresses, with such effect, that Mahomed III., after sustaining a long contest, at the head of a formidable army, was forced to abandon his pretensions. After the death of Michael, however, the dissensions which arose in the councils of the clergy and nobles, caused Wallachia to fall once more under the authority of the

Sultans, who, as in former times, took away all freedom in the election of the voïevodes, and exacted a tribute.

In the meantime, Bukharest, towards the end of the seventeenth century, had become the seat of government in Wallachia, and Bessarab, who reigned in 1710, had assumed an attitude sufficiently imposing to induce the surrounding powerful nations to seek an alliance with him. Intelligences with Austria, and with Peter the Great, conducted with too timid a hand, and acts of fatal irresolution, which cost him his head, signalised the reign of this prince. Shortly after the termination of his reign, the Sublime Porte united the two principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia under one government; abolished definitively the right of electing voïevodes, and sent them a sovereign of its own choosing, from among the Greek families of Constantinople, whose long habits of submission rendered them fitting instruments to carry out its sovereign wishes.

Nicolas Mavrocordato was the first voïevode who governed the two principalities. Under his successor, Constantine, whose rule commenced in 1740, the country enjoyed a few years of peace and stability. At the end of the century, war having broken out between the Porte and Russia, our army occupied the principalities and the places of strength on the Danube during four years,

at the end of which the celebrated treaty of perpetual peace was concluded at the camp of Koutchouk-Kainardji, July 10—22, 1774. This treaty, confirmed by subsequent conventions, stipulated in its 26th Article, that the principalities be restored to the Porte, which should resume possession of the fortresses; but, in consenting to this restitution, the Empress guaranteed to the inhabitants of Wallachia and Moldavia, the free exercise of their religion, the liberty of transporting their persons and their property to other lands, and an exemption from all taxes during a certain number of years. She obtained for the sovereigns of the principalities the favour of having Christian *chargés d'affaires* at the court of the Sultan, and reserved to the ministers and the consul of Russia the right of acting as representatives at the Sublime Porte, in the affairs of the principalities. In 1784, the Sultan Abdulhamid re-enacted, by a special rescript, all the clauses favourable to the principalities, renounced the right of establishing his subjects on their territories, and reduced the amount to be thenceforward exacted, whether in the shape of tribute money, or presents.

In a short time, however, the Ottoman cabinet paid but little regard to its solemn engagements, and when the French Revolution broke out, a fresh occupation by Russia and Austria was found necessary, the result of

which was the Treaty of Yassy, by which the condition of the principalities was fixed in accordance with the treaties of 1774 and 1784, before quoted.

At the beginning of the present century, the Ottoman government appearing to lean towards an alliance with the Emperor Napoleon, this symptom required a fresh occupation of the principalities. From 1806 to 1812, the Russians retained possession of the territory, and the treaty of Bukharest, which fixes the boundary of the empire at the Pruth, confirmed all the former guarantees secured to the principalities, alleviated their burdens, and limited to seven years the reign of each Hospodar. At this period, Wallachia was governed by Prince Caradja. Threatened by the Porte, this prince suddenly adopted the resolution of secretly quitting his states. He executed this project in 1818, leaving the cares of administration during his absence in the hands of the Boyards. The latter turned to the Sultan, and requested that the government of the principalities should henceforward lie with the divan, thus hoping to put an end to the calamities attending the administration of the Greek princes: but the Sultan gave no heed to the petition of the Boyards, and sent Prince Alexander Soutzo to Wallachia. The death of this prince, in 1821, was followed by some attempts at insurrection: moreover, on all sides, symptoms of commotion were manifested, whose distant echo

awakened, in the most remote provinces, ideas of emancipation. Spain, Italy and Egypt, were the scenes of important events; and the eyes of Europe were fixed upon them. It was at this period that these countries were occupied for the last time, and the long and bloody war which brought the Ottoman empire to the brink of its ruin, terminated in the treaty of Adrianople. The emancipation of the principalities dates from this treaty. While an organic law was being prepared for Wallachia and Moldavia, General Kisseleff, invested with the command of the troops in the two provinces, received the title of plenipotentiary president; and thus, in the hands of this illustrious chieftain (known, hitherto, as a skilful soldier) were vested all the necessary powers for directing the reform of this country according to the stipulations of the treaties of Ak-Kermann and Adrianople. The task was of immense difficulty, embracing in its scope all the important questions of social order, and presenting obstacles of every description. The genius of Kisseleff, urged by an unchangeable love of good, and strengthened by a firm will and indefatigable activity, brought this important reform to a successful issue, and substituted law and order to a monstrous despotism, which, for more than two centuries, had crushed these unfortunate people. Entering the principalities at the close of a ruinous war, the military legislator had, in the first instance, to

contend against the most cruel calamities—the plague, famine, every form of human misery, and, worse than all, the moral prostration of the people. But his strong will overcame every obstacle; it was powerful enough to effect a thorough reform, and to lay the foundation of future stability. To General Kisseleff, this country, previously so ill-governed, owes the whole of its present administration. He created its army, regulated its finances, established civil laws which it had never before possessed: he taught it at the same time order and obedience, and thus his name has become familiar in the mouths of the people; and he holds that place in the gratitude of the nation to which he is entitled. When, at last, his mission was accomplished, and the new Hospodars, recognised by the empire, entered upon their functions under the protection of a constitution prudently devised, General Kisseleff quitted the countries whose salvation he had effected, and in which he will for ever be respected.

Thus, then, by virtue of the last beneficial revolution which it has undergone, Wallachia is governed by a Hospodar elected for life by an extraordinary assembly of Boyards, with the investiture of the Porte, and the approval of Russia. The nationality of the country is respected; and no point of its territories can be occupied by a Turkish garrison. The General Assembly, which exercises

the legislative power conjointly with the Prince, is composed of forty-three members, including the president. The latter office is always filled by the Metropolitan of Bukharest; the remaining forty-two members are elected by a College of Boyards, who vote secretly. Ministers cannot be elected as deputies.

The following is an enumeration of offices and dignities in Wallachia; by the effect of circumstances common to all small states, the titles conferred on these offices are the more vain and pompous, as the wealth and extent of the principalities are limited.

The first rank in the state, after that of Hospodar, is that of *Bano*. This ancient title belonged to the sovereigns of that part of Wallachia which is called the Banat; and Craïova was the residence of the bano. This dignity now gives to its possessor the right of a seat in the council, or divan, as it is called, while in his government he is represented by a deputy, who is called *caïmacan*.

Four *vorniks*, chosen from the nobility, are members of the divan by birth, and, together with the bano and the metropolitan, exercise the judicial functions.

Two *logothetes* are also added to the council; their office is to signify the sentences pronounced by the court and ratified by the prince.

The *spathar* is a member of the divan, and commands the whole of the armed forces.

The *vestiar* is the grand treasurer, and as such holds a seat in the divan.

The *postelnik* performs the office of secretary to the prince.

The *divan effendi* is secretary to the divan.

The public offices of the second order are :–

The *cloziar*, whose office is merely honorary; the *aga*, charged with the direction of the general and municipal police of Bukharest; and the *commisso*, or prince's equerry.

Among the offices held by the inferior nobility, are the *caminar;* the *harmache*, who sees to the execution of criminal sentences, and superintends the Tsigan gold-gatherers; the *paharnik*, or cup-bearer; the *stolnik*, or steward.

Four ministers and a secretary of state manage the affairs of the principality. The different offices are :— home affairs, justice, public worship, and finance. A court of controul, a quarantine committee, and a prison commission, complete the administration.

The spathar, as before stated, commands the soldiery. There are three regiments under his orders, each of which consists of two battalions; the whole military force of the principality being thus about five thousand men. Ten staff officers are attached to the person of the reigning prince.

Wallachia, which contains 22 cities, 15 towns, and 3,560 villages, presented, according to the census in 1837, a total of 339,322 houses. The territory is divided into seventeen districts, twelve on this side of the Alouta, and five beyond. Each of these districts is governed by two ispravniks, chosen from among the Boyards. A judge has recently been appointed to each district, and also a *samessi*—a superintendent of taxes, invested with a controllership over the administration of the ispravniks. The latter functionary is unremovable, while the rest are revocable annually. This arrangement, retained from the Turkish system, should be promptly abolished, if it be desired to establish the public administration on a just and proper basis.

The districts are themselves subdivided into *plaças*, each plaça having a separate collector of taxes.

The chief town of a district is governed by a municipal council, under the direction of a president or mayor, assisted by three members. The civil registers, which had no existence previous to the presidentship of General Kisseleff, are kept by the clergy, and are in duplicate. One of the registers is kept at the parish church; the other is sent to the record-office of the district tribunal.

The administration of justice has especially benefitted by the new order of things in Wallachia. The law, it is true, still exhibits traces of its former despotic forms;

but it must be acknowledged, nevertheless, that marked ameliorations have been introduced in the dispensation of justice. The General Assembly are too firmly convinced of the necessity for a homogeneous code of laws, not to apply all its endeavours to harmonise the habits and requirements of the country with the legislation of European countries, where the law is strong because it is wise. The assembly will feel also that there can be no proper administration of justice without a judicial body, whose integrity should be universally acknowledged; and no one is in a better position to guide his colleagues in the direction of salutary reforms, than the skilful minister at the head of this important department at the time of our visit, Vornik Jean Stirbey.

Justice is administered in the name of the prince, its forms being laid down by the Wallachian code promulgated in 1818. This code is based upon the Roman law and the common law of the principality. The French commercial and criminal codes (with the exception of a few modifications, to suit the political and geographical situation of the country), were at this time being submitted to the General Assembly for their adoption. A portion of the former has been adopted; the remainder, with the criminal code, were deferred to the ensuing session. As regards the customs of the country, they are, with one or two differences, the same as in Moldavia.

There are in Wallachia three degrees of jurisdiction:—firstly, the tribunal of the district, or of the first resort; secondly, the court of appeal, or of the second resort; thirdly, the supreme divan, or of the third resort.

The tribunal of the district takes cognizance of all civil and commercial affairs; with respect to criminal matters, their functions are limited to preliminary investigations.

The court of appeal is divided into three sections; civil, commercial, and criminal, constituting so many separate courts.

The supreme court takes cognizance of judgments delivered by the courts of appeal, both in Greater and Lesser Wallachia.

The institution of the jury does not exist.

Up to the present time, judges are appointed for three years; at the end of this period, they may be continued in their offices, if their services have given satisfaction. But, according to the constitutional law, dating from 1830, all magistrates chosen by the prince will be irremovable after ten years office, except in cases of forfeiture, voluntary resignation, or appointment to administrative duties.

All public functionaries, every noble or deputy, may be judicially proceeded against by any complainant, without

other formalities than are required for the proceeding against a private individual.

Actions at law are very frequent in Wallachia, the most common cause of litigation being encroachments on the boundaries of land; a singular circumstance in a country where there is so much wild and uncultivated land open to the husbandman. A great number of contests arise in consequence of the preference accorded by the law, in the sale of lands and houses, to the relations of the seller, or to those holding property adjoining that which is for sale. It is to be desired that the provisions of the law with respect to the latter case should be abolished from the Wallachian code; the General Assembly will probably have to consider their repeal on an early occasion.

Advocates are not constituted into a distinct order, and are without any council of discipline. When a defendant has not made choice of any counsel, and no advocate undertakes the defence, counsel is appointed by the court.

Pleadings in defence are unrestricted, and the proceedings are public, unless any public scandal attaching to the cause, or the honour of families, should necessitate the contrary. There is no law prohibiting the public journals from reporting judicial proceedings; but up to the present time, they have never availed themselves of the privilege.

The laws punish murder with death; but capital punishment has fallen into disuse. Since the provisional administration of General Kisseleff, sentence of death has always been commuted to perpetual labour in the salt-works.

The prince possesses the right of pardon, in accordance with the recommendations addressed by the tribunals to the department of justice; in these cases, a commutation of punishment only can be granted. When, by his conduct, a prisoner has given evidence of moral amelioration, the vornik (superintendent) of the prisons addresses a report to the department of justice, which is transmitted to the prince, and the prince may grant a remission of a portion of the punishment incurred.

CRIMES AND OFFENCES, IN THE YEAR 1835.

Robberies and larcenies	457
Robberies by house-breaking, or on the highway	24
Murders	56
Attempts at murder	26
	563

IN THE YEAR 1836.

Robberies and larcenies	331
Robberies by house-breaking, or on the highway	23
Murders	66
Attempts at murder	8
	428

It should be observed that instances of premeditated murder very rarely occur; with but few exceptions this crime is committed in drunkenness; wine, in Wallachia, being very abundant and cheap, as it is free from any tax except a very moderate excise due on entering towns under municipal government.

The age of majority among the Wallachians is fixed at twenty-five, but the minor can be emancipated: 1stly, by marriage; 2ndly, by the consent of his parents on attaining his eighteenth year; 3rdly, by order of the tribunal of the first resort, at the request of the guardian, the parents, or of the minor himself, at the age of twenty-one, when deprived of his father and mother. This order is submitted to the minister of justice, and subject to the sanction of the prince. A minor, thus emancipated, cannot however contract any loan, make over real, or dispose of personal property, he has only free use of his revenue.

Divorce is permitted in certain cases laid down by the law; it carries with it the voidance of the religious contract, and the parties divorced may enter into a second marriage. Divorce may be sought on the ground of incompatibility of temper; but in this case, the parties are bound down to a trial of seven years; at the end of which period, when all religious and moral means have been exhausted, there is no further obstacle to the divorce.

The department of public worship embraces all ecclesiastical affairs, as well as the management of public instruction. Three bishops, those of Rimnik, Argech, and Bouzéo, have charge over as many dioceses, under the dependence of the metropolitan of Bukharest. Religion, which is here of the schismatic Greek creed, does not, properly speaking, hold any great empire over the minds of the Wallachian people, but they observe its outward forms, and particularly the austerities of fasting, with scrupulous exactitude. The people are seen to attend divine service with every sign of respect, and the great number of churches existing in Wallachia, bear witness to the ardent zeal with which outward worship is honoured. The municipality contains no less than 3,753 churches, of which 1,364 are built of stone. To these must be added 202 monasteries, of which 133 are dependent on churches. These establishments, to all appearance, furnish relief to the poor of the communes, as it is rare to see a Wallachian beggar, the Tsigans being almost the only people who practise this ignoble and importunate avocation. The Wallachians are naturally inclined to superstition; they yield ready credence to witchcraft and spells, without, however, allowing their belief, which, with them, is a kind of poetical tradition, to disturb their peace of mind.

The statistics of public education for the year 1847, are as follow :—

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Establishments supported by Government.

		Pupils.
Bukharest. School of St. Sava.	Introductory Classes . .	456
	Humanities	262
	Complementary studies .	29
Schools in connection with St. Sava Introductory Classes.	Amza	92
	St. George (the New)	114
	Total	953
Private schools, 22 in number		704
Three boarding schools for boys		49
Two do. do. for girls		39
	Total of pupils in Bukharest . . .	1,745
Craïova. School supported by Government :—		
	Elementary Classes . .	146
	Humanities	84
Private schools at Craïova.	Holy Apostles	65
Boarding schools for boys		18
Districts. 26 schools, 12 of which supported by Government		1,724
	General total of pupils	3,782

Independently of these establishments, the pope (chief of the parish) or the precentor of each village is bound, in return for some slight recompense, to teach reading and writing to the children of the peasantry, so that in

a few years there will be but few who cannot at least read and write.

The administration of the finances of the principality is entrusted, as before mentioned, to the agents, who collect the taxes in each canton, and pay them into the treasury. The fixed revenues of the state are thus composed:—

	Piastres.
Poll-tax on labourers	8,210,670
Poll-tax on masils (nobles of inferior degree)	121,645
Poll-tax on Tsigans	147,860
Produce of patents	438,970
Farming of salt-works	2,500,000
Farming of customs	1,405,050
Estimate of duty on brandy, spirits of wine, tobacco entering towns; duties on the exportation of corn and cattle, not included in the customs' duties farmed out; duties on diplomas, &c., casual revenue	2,000,000
	14,824,195

This amount of taxes is paid by 296,286 families.

The peasantry are subject to an annual tax of thirty piastres a head, which is paid into the treasury through the collector: they have, moreover, to pay one-tenth of this sum to the communal treasury established in each village.

The expenditure of the state is as follows:—

	Piastres.
Annual tribute paid to the Porte	1,400,000
Civil list	1,600,000
Justice	2,158,440
Administration of home affairs	1,857,480
Police	360,540
Army	2,750,000
Dorobantz, or gendarmes	179,240
Postal establishments	1,107,418
Quarantines	600,000
Roads and bridges	200,000
Paving of Bukharest	48,000
Wood for firing	80,000
Prisons	70,000
Pensions	1,500,000
Poor and indigent	100,000
Hermitages	22,000
Public instruction	350,000
Foundlings	100,000
Hospitals	150,000
	14,633,118

The last three items of expenditure are not paid out of the treasury, but are at the charge of the central treasury of the metropolitan diocese, which is supplied from the ecclesiastical revenue.

The surplus of the revenue over the expenditure, forms a reserved fund, after having met the extraordinary expenses.

The monies current in Wallachia and Moldavia are the Russian silver rouble, the golden ducat, the Austrian zwanziger, and the Turkish piastre, aspre, and para.

The piastre, which is the monetary unit of the principalities, does not represent absolutely the same value as the Turkish piastre: it has not yet suffered the same depreciation, although its value has greatly fallen within the last twenty years.

Towards 1822, the piastre was worth in Wallachia as much as from seventy-five to eighty centimes; but it has lost considerably since, and its average value in 1837 may be deduced from the following calculation. Let us first state, that this coin has two different current values; that recognised by the government, and that adopted by trade and private individuals.

In the Government treasury:

	fr. c.
The silver ruble, worth exactly 4 fr. French, is exchanged for 10 piastres and a half, which brings the piastre to	0, 38 ,,
The Austrian golden ducat, which is worth 11 fr. 85 c., is worth 31½ piastres; the value of the piastre, according to this, is . . .	0, 37, 42
The Austrian zwanziger, equivalent to 86 c., passes in Wallachia for 2¼ piastres, which brings the piastre to	0, 38, 23
The average value of the piastre, as regards the public treasury, therefore is	0, 37, 82

In private transactions:

	fr. c.
The silver ruble is exchanged for 12 piastres, bringing the piastre to	0, 33, 33
The golden ducat is valued at from 35 to 36 piastres, which for one piastre is	0, 33, 86
Or	0, 32, 92
The Austrian zwanziger, representing 2½ piastres, brings the piastre to	0, 34, 80
Average value of the piastre in trade . . .	0, 33, 86
Mean between the official and trade value of the piastre	0, 35, 84

This unit, already very small, is subdivided again into 40 paras and 120 aspres.

The import trade of Wallachia consists principally of foreign manufactures; oil, soap, and coffee, are principally brought from Turkey. The principality exports grain, hemp, skins, cattle, timber, honey, wax, some small quantities of wine, salt, wool, and a little silk, the production of which is beginning to develop itself.

The total average amount of imports for the period from 1831 to 1835, amounted to about 31,848,076; the average of the exports for the same period amounted to 49,159,585.

The industrial arts, it must be confessed, are as yet at zero; scarcely till now, did Wallachia possess a few

manufactories of hats, and handkerchiefs of printed stuff, far behind the wants of the country.

It is easy to understand, however, that the deficiency of hands, and the little progress in industry and agriculture unfortunately resulting therefrom, is to be attributed to the languishing state of the country during so many years of destructive war, and the continual apprehension of incursions from the Turks. To the same cause must be assigned the absence of all trade, for the unfortunate inhabitants could only sell to the Turks, who fixed an arbitrary price on their purchases. The administration of affairs, as we have said, was indeed deplorable. All has altered since the last reform; and there is now the hope of a more prosperous future for the commercial and industrial enterprise which is now dawning.

Within the last four years, 631 manufactories have been established, namely :—

1 Wax taper manufactory.	22 Handkerchief manufactories.
32 Candle manufactories.	15 Manufactories of woollen cording.
184 Tan yards.	180 Distilleries.
28 Soap manufactories.	4 Glass-works.
69 Potteries.	1 China manufactory.
91 Linen manufactories.	
4 Hat manufactories.	631

There are in Wallachia 2,299 water-mills, 6 windmills, and 9 mills moved by horses.

Up to the present time, salt has been the only mineral product profitably worked in Wallachia. We have already stated the amount derived from the salt-works. There is, however, every ground for believing that Wallachia possesses mineral riches in sufficient abundance, and that, with a continuance of peace, and a more intelligent application of capital, they may be worked by safer and more productive means than hitherto. We are enabled to enumerate, according to information which we believe to be correct, the different mineral substances which are known to exist in the Wallachian soil.

Gold.—The streams which bring down gold are those from the Oltez to the Yalomnitza, inclusively; but this metal is to be found more abundantly in the first of these rivers, from the village of Binzeni, to a distance of five leagues from that place; within this space are found the richest sands in Wallachia; they are of a blackish red colour, mixed with clay and particles of quartz and jasper, and are remarkable for the quantity of garnets to be found in them. Fragments of gold of considerable size have sometimes been found beneath large rocks in the middle of the river, at the season when the waters subside. Auriferous sands are also met with near the village of Oësti, on the Argechi, two leagues from Kourté; a league and a quarter from the village of Ioupanesti, on the river Chouptane; near the

village of Magaleo-Maloulouï, in the river Valea Kacelor; and lastly, on the river Yalomnitza, near the village of Bronesti, two leagues and a half from Firgovist.

Copper.—In the district of Mehédintzi, in Lesser Wallachia, carbonate of copper is found on the river Bourba,. at a league from the burgh of Baja de Arama. This ore was formerly worked in these regions, as is shown by the traces of furnaces, the excavations in the mountains, and coppery scoriæ scattered here and there over the soil.

Copper pyrites is found at Baja de Arama, and lately it has begun to be worked; but until the furnaces are completed, no exact data can be given as to the per centage yielded by the ore; according to the analysis made of several specimens collected from the remains of former works, lying on the surface, it is to be presumed that the ore is a very rich one.

There is another bed of copper ore three quarters of a league from the same spot.

Native Mercury.—Mercury has been discovered near the town of Pelesti, in the district of Argech; it was disseminated in globules in a horizontal stratum of sand and clay. It presented itself over only a small tract, and excavations have been made in the vicinity, but without success.

Coal.—Several points in Wallachia present beds of

coal; the best is in the district of Bouzéo, in the canton of Peskovoulouï, four leagues from Bouzéo, to the left of the river Saratzeni, between the villages of Berka and Jossina.

This coal burns with a flame, and emits a sulphureous and bituminous smell. The combustion of 100 parts leaves a residue of eighteen, which is of a dark red colour. This coal lies in twelve layers of about a metre in thickness, in an argilaceous soil, and all these layers occur within a depth of 200 metres.

Lignite.—This combustible is found in several spots, and principally in Lesser Wallachia, in the district of Voutza Plaîou, canton of Montagne, near the village of Armachesti, on the river Tzernichoara; it occurs in large agglomerations, covered by only a slight layer of earth. It contains sixteen per cent. of earthy matter, burns with a flame, and leaves a dark red ash. It would not be difficult to work it, and one man could extract nearly three tons in a day.

Rock Salt.—This mineral forms, as we have already stated, the chief mineral wealth of Wallachia. It is found at the distance of a league from Rimnik; and in Greater Wallachia, near the village of Slanik, district of Saboueni, and also near the village of Fellega, district of Prahova, canton of Kempina. The bed occurs at a depth of from six to fifty-five metres below the surface, and presents a thickness of forty-eight metres. These

mines annually yield thirty-eight millions of kilogrammes, and produce in value one-fourth of the revenues of the principality. The salt of Slanik, which has a crystalline appearance, is reckoned the best in Wallachia.

Liquid Bitumen.—Several localities produce this substance. The richest deposit is in the district of Sakouïni, near the village of Pukouretza; it produces annually about twenty-two thousand five hundred kilogrammes. The richest wells may yield as much as eighty kilogrammes a day, and the least rich from five to fifteen. The working of this mineral deposit requires but little trouble.

Native sulphur.—It is met with in the district of Dombovitza, canton of Dialoulouï, near the village of Schiatingo; it lies in a bed of green clay, occurring in the form of yellow globules.

Garnets.—These are found in the district of Argechi, on the mountain of Tchokan; they are generally incrusted in micaceous schist. Scattered on the sides of the mountain, and carried away by the waters, they are found in the gravel on the banks of some of the rivers, as before stated.

Succinum, or Yellow Amber.—This is found in the canton of Despré-Bouzéo, near the villages of Koltza and Boilor, in the canton of Koviskova. Its extreme fragility renders it little susceptible of useful application.

Besides these mineral deposits there are abundance of mineral waters in Wallachia; the principal springs are:

Bobotzi, district of Dombovitza . .	a Sulphurous spring.
Sfintzesti, id.	Sulphurous.
Pibitchin	Chalybeate.
Another in the same village . . .	Sulphurous.
Ditto	Saline.
De Braza, district of Prahova . .	Sulphurous.
Pontchoussa, district of Dombovitza .	Sulphurous.
Rozia, near the monastery	Sulphuro-saline.
Kalimanesti	Sulphurous.
Olanesti	Sulphuro-saline.
Monastery of Glogova	Sulphurous.

We have only now to add, in conclusion of our series of observations and data, a few remarks on the physical constitution of the interesting country under our notice.

Bathed throughout the extent of its western and southern frontiers by the Danube, Wallachia is bounded on the north by the Karpathian mountains, which separate it from Transylvania. Its extent from east to west is one hundred leagues; its breadth, in the direction of the meridian, is about fifty leagues. Half of this space, which expands towards its eastern portion, presents a succession of plains, watered by streams of considerable magnitude: the other half, namely, the northern, rises up towards the high mountains in an amphitheatre of hills, amidst which, a great abundance of water, and a most fertile vegetation, contribute to form the most agreeable sites.

Wallachia is not traversed by any navigable river. The swelling of the waters of the Bouzéo, the Rimnik,

and other torrents, often, as we ourselves experienced, suddenly inundate the plains through which they flow, but this uncertain and irregular force could never be applied to the necessities of trade. Streams of clear water flow down from the mountains of Wallachia, but they are not all equally salubrious, if we may judge so from the goitres by which the inhabitants of certain districts are disfigured. We have already observed, that in the open portion of the country, epidemic fevers are frequent; they are rarely, however, of a pernicious character.

The climate of Wallachia is of the most temperate kind; the winters are severe during only two months; and spring makes its appearance early, too early frequently, for it is accompanied with terrible inundations. The south-easterly winds, which bring with them the vapours of the Black Sea, prevail during the month of June, and the atmosphere is frequently disturbed by periodical storms. It was under such circumstances that we found ourselves in the midst of the vast steppes, which become utterly impassable, when the waters have remained long upon the land.

To the inexhaustible kindness of Prince Alexander Ghika we owe the following data, the accuracy of which cannot be doubted, the professors of the college in which the observations were made, being of acknowledged skill.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS MADE AT THE COLLEGE OF ST. SAVA,

DURING THE YEARS 1834, 1835, AND 1836.

TEMPERATURE.

RÉAUMER'S THERMOMETER.

Jan. 1st fortnight, — 18° once.		*June*	from + 14° to + 22°
Gen. Temp. from — 10° to — 15°		*July*	„ + 17° to + 23°
2nd fortnight „ — 1° to — 3°		*Aug.*	„ + 20° to + 13°
Feb. 1st fortnight „ — 1° to — 7°		*Sep.*	„ + 17° to + 10°
2nd fortnight „ + 1° to + 13°		*Oct.*	„ + 14° to + 1°
Mar.	„ + 5° to + 14°	*Nov.*	„ + 8° to + 0°
April	„ + 4° to + 17°	*Dec.*	„ + 1° to + 9°
May	„ + 4° to + 21°		

Barometer.—The height of the mercury varied throughout the year from 28 inches, 4 lines, French measure, to 21 inches, 11 lines. Once, in March, it stood at 29 inches; in September, at 29 and 3 lines; and in October at 29 inches.

DIRECTION OF THE WINDS DURING THE YEAR.

	Days.
North	7
North-east	5
East	121
South-east	12
South	46
South-east	19
West	56
North-west	37
Calm	62
	365

The year presents :

IN WINTER.	Days.
Cloudy	16
Overcast	13
Snow	16
Fog	4
Moist	3
Hoar Frost	1
Fine	37
	90

IN SPRING.	Days.
Cloudy	17
Overcast	8
Rain	12
Hoar Frost	2
Violent Winds	8
Fine	45
	92

IN SUMMER.	Days.
Cloudy	8
Overcast	6
Rain	8
Fog	2
Violent Winds	11
Fine	57
	92

IN AUTUMN.	Days.
Cloudy	6
Overcast	16
Rain	12
Snow	7
Violent Winds	5
Fine	45
	91

It has been observed that meteors, especially in the level country, are not so common or so destructive as in other parts of Europe situated in the same latitudes. Every year the soil of Wallachia receives two or three shocks of earthquake, of greater or less violence, and every ten years really disastrous effects unfortunately occur from this visitation. The earthquake of 1802,

which overthrew the monastery of Koltza, is still remembered, as well as that of 1829, which violently shook the majority of buildings in Bukharest.

Since this was written, a more violent shock than any yet remembered with sorrow in the country, very nearly destroyed Bukharest. On the evening of the 23rd of January, 1838, the city shook, the most solid monuments tottered, several houses fell to ruins; all were damaged, and several individuals lost their lives. On this fearful occasion, when everything around was rocking or overthrown, surrounded by the wounded and dying, Prince Ghika, by dint of coolness, humanity, and courage, succeeded in restoring a feeling of security and hope among the despairing inhabitants.

The population of Wallachia, for so long a space uncertain and fluctuating, is daily growing more fixed and stable. This is the case with all communities in progress of civilization; their development awaits only the occurrence of favorable circumstances. We have already stated that the various castes composing the population, are divided into three classes: the Boyards, the Wallachian husbandmen, and the Tsigans. We need not repeat what we have before observed relative to the characteristics of each of these distinct classes; we will only add a few additional traits, which will complete our sketch of these people,

so various in character, yet destined to live under the same laws.

The Boyards, whose name is traced by some to a Sclavonian word, signifying warrior, while others derive it from the Latin *bos*, an ox, referring the origin of this title to the time of the ancient Roman colonies, — the Boyards, we say, are the possessors of the territory; but they are far from deriving as much revenue as they might by a wise management from so rich a country, where the land requires but slight cultivation to be rendered productive. Exclusive masters of all public offices, exempt from all the burthens of the state, these proud noblemen, careless of the future, and great partizans of the past, have hitherto given themselves up to a life of sterile luxury. This luxury has undermined the fortunes of the whole class; it has perpetuated debt in establishments, which, by a wiser administration, should have laid the foundations of a solid wealth, that would have flowed through the entire mass of inhabitants.

The Boyards of the present day—more enlightened as to their true interests—are beginning sufficiently to take part in public affairs, to excite the hope that they will one day see the question of domestic economy in its right light, so nearly connected as it is with all wise management of public affairs. The superior

education given to the young nobility, is the guarantee of a better state of things in future; but up to this time the lives of the privileged class have remained impressed with that improvident fatalism which oriental customs, and an order of things so long precarious, had instilled into their habits. Nothing can be more elegant than their personal state and retinue, which is always somewhat theatrical; but if we remove from the presence of the chief of the house, and throw a glance at his tribe of tattered and idle retainers, at his equipages, too numerous to be elegant, at his vast and dilapidated mansion, we are struck with the melancholy and wretchedness lying beneath this appearance of luxury. The refined manners of the master, the gracious air and talents of the women of his family, the facility and correctness with which the languages of Central Europe are spoken by them; the taste, the tact, the very frivolity of the conversation—everything combines to show that this society is equal to the most distinguished in Europe; but, beyond the door of the drawing room, a filthy and repulsive crowd of idle servants and gipsies scattered about the anterooms, and sleeping on the very staircases, remind you that you are in Wallachia, and that all this civilization has not shaken off the muddy crust which envelops it, and deprives it of all its lustre.

The very appearance of the Wallachian peasant interests one in his favour; nor is this pre-possession ill-founded, when we reflect on the long series of misfortunes which have afflicted this pastoral people for so many centuries. There is much to be done for the improvement of the manners of this robust race of peasants, who seem to have been expressly created for the labours of the field. Like Virgil's husbandmen, they would be happy did they but know the benefits which Heaven has showered upon this beautiful Roman land, the object of their pride, but which can continue noble and truly Roman, only on condition of being rendered fertile and productive. *Magna parens frugum.* The Danube only awaits the grain of the Wallachian plains to pour fresh stores into the granaries of the Black Sea, and the Wallachians would produce much, and cheaply, could they rid themselves of their habits of idleness and intemperance, and their love of holidays, too frequent in the religious observances of the rustic population. To eradicate these deplorable habits, is the noblest task which an enlightened government can propose to itself.

We now come to the Gipsies, or Tsigans, as their Wallachian hosts call them — those wandering tribes known by as many names as there are countries in

Europe; everywhere rejected, yet everywhere tolerated. Idlers and shameless thieves, haughty beggars, wrapt in ostentatious rags; these unfortunate wretches exhibit, nevertheless, beneath the filth and brutish degradation of vice, the noblest and most refined physiognomies which the beautiful Caucasian type can present. The Tsigans of Wallachia, where they are very numerous, seemed to us to corroborate the opinion that they have been driven into Europe from the beautiful climate of India. There is a vast difference between the outward features of this race, and those which characterise the Gitanas of Spain, in whom the admixture of Moorish blood is manifest.

However the case may be, this exiled people are enabled to subsist in Wallachia more readily than in any other country, as it presents them the means of reconciling their natural indolence with the conditions necessary to ensure them the protection of the law. A portion of the Tsigan population live by labour; to these is assigned the task of washing the auriferous sands borne down by the current of certain rivers, and it is with the produce of their patient toil at this employment, that they are enabled to pay the poll-tax. In the second class are found masons, blacksmiths, cooks, and locksmiths; occupations which the Wallachian population disdain to follow; but the greater portion

are consigned to servitude, and swell with their useless and mischievous numbers, the household of the Boyards. Lastly, the third class of this people, without a name, from having received so many, live in a state of vagabondage and mendicancy. Half clad, and exposed to the inclemency of the seasons, men and women encamp in the open air with a troop of hideous children, in whom it would be difficult to anticipate the handsome youths of both sexes, whom we see so graceful in form, and with so proud a deportment as soon as their precocious maturity is developed.

An article in the organic law of the principality ordains, however, that a fund shall be established for redeeming the Tsigans from vagrancy, and obliging them to build houses and dwell in them. This measure is beginning to be put in force.

We cannot more appropriately conclude these observations, than by a table of the census of the Wallachian population, drawn up at the end of 1837. It will show into what categories the various classes we have passed in review may be subdivided, and the proportions they bear to each other.

POPULATION.

NON TAX-PAYING FAMILIES.

	Families.
Boyards	944
Niamours and Postelnitzi, or inferior nobility . .	4,195

	Families.
Priests of the Greek Church, almost all married	6,820
Deacons ditto	2,710
Persons connected with church establishments	2,920
Gipsies, servants of private individuals	14,158
Widows and infirm persons	13,127
Exempted for services rendered	1,078
Exempted by enlisting	3,436
Foreign subjects, the greater portion Catholics, Protestants, and Jews	3,729
The Jews are few in number; except in Bukharest, few or none are found in the districts.	
Total non tax-paying families	53,117

FAMILIES PAYING POLL-TAX, OR PATENT-RIGHT.

Agriculturists	272,974
Bulgarian emigrants	5,179
Mazils, (a species of privileged class)	3,258
Merchants and traders	4,810
Artisans	4,430
Gipsies belonging to the state (gold-gatherers)	5,635
Total population in families	349,403
At the rate of five to each family, the total population would be	1,747,015
Add to this—monks	2,648
Persons without fixed domicile	1,519
Grand total of the population	1,751,182

The agricultural resources of Wallachia would be immense, were there a sufficient population, and had its political education reached that point which it will one day attain, when it will have learned that the true sources of prosperity are labour and perseverance. As a portion of the agricultural statistics, it will perhaps not be without interest to give the result of the recent census of domestic animals, taken in 1837. It forms a starting point which, in a few years, probably, will be left far behind.

DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

Horses	96,885
Stallions and mares	105,533
Oxen	310,948
Bulls	15,542
Cows	280,017
Mules	230
Asses	798
Tsigan sheep, with fine wool	93,332
Common sheep	704,840
Tsigan ewes	924,976
Common ewes	360,096
Goats	213,377
Pigs	345,428

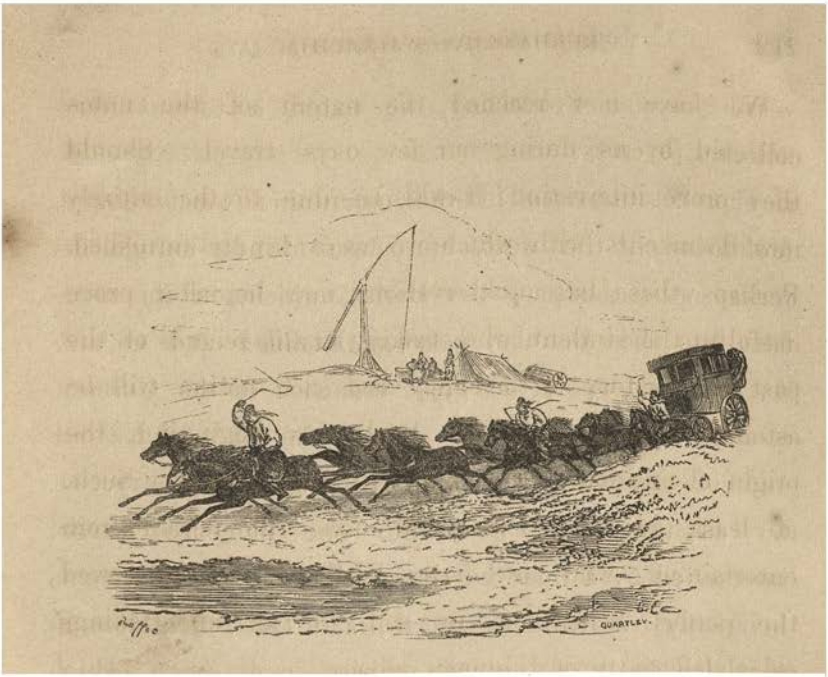
The Wallachians bring up a race of magnificent and intelligent dogs, to assist them in tending their flocks; but the valuable qualities of these animals scarcely counterbalance the inconveniences which the unlimited

propagation of the canine race produces in the cities. Without mentioning the martyrdom of hearing, at the approach of night, the doleful howlings and angry growlings of the pack of dogs which invade the streets perfectly unmolested, there is real danger in finding one's-self alone, and without the defence of a good cudgel, exposed to become the object of a chase, from which, even with the nimbleness of a stag, it would be impossible to escape in safety. The safest plan, if you are armed with a cudgel, is, on the first demonstration of hostile intentions, to deal a good sounding blow on the nearest orator of the band. The remainder continue barking, but do not approach near enough to bite.

To bring this long enumeration to a close, with a fact having reference also to noxious animals, we will remind the reader that Wallachia is often invaded by clouds of grass-hoppers, laying waste in a few hours the richest lands. When the principality is afflicted with this visitation, the agricultural population is thrown into a state of despair, and premiums are offered by the government for the destruction of these devouring insects. During our stay at Bukharest, while I was in the closet of the minister of the interior, he communicated a report to us, announcing the capture, in one district, of two thousand eight hundred and thirty-one bushels of these destructive creatures.

We have now reached the extent of the notes collected by us during our few days' travel. Should they prove interesting, it will be due to the entirely new documents with which we were kindly furnished. Perhaps these latter observations may hereafter prove useful to the student, who, seeking in the records of the past the history of a happy and rich nation, will be astonished to find in so modest a beginning, the origin of an extended and influential prosperity. Such, at least, is the wish which none can refrain from entertaining, who have seen Wallachia, and observed the perfect fitness of its soil for all undertakings calculated to reward human labour.

After a few hours' repose at Fokschany, we crossed the little bridge which separated us from the Moldavian territory.



CHAPTER IV.

YASSY.—MOLDAVIA.—BESSARABIA.

Melancholy as was the spectacle presented by the inundated plains of Wallachia, the valleys of Moldavia, bounded in the distance by rounded hills, presented neither more level roads or firmer ground. Hardly had we passed the frontier, than the rain redoubled in violence, so that on arriving at the shores of the Sereth, which runs a few

versts beyond Fokschany, we found a torrent very difficult to cross.

The Sereth rises in the mountains which bound Moldavia on the west, and descends to mingle its waters with those of the Barlat, which, in its turn, falls into the Danube, between Brahiloff and Galatz. At the same spot, the great branches of the German stream, the mouths of the Pruth, the lakes of Kagoul and of Yalpoutch, convert the whole country, as far as the Black Sea, into one immense marsh, intersected by a hundred rivers. These parallel streams invariably run from the north, and are finally lost in that labyrinth of waters, prairies, and sands, which make the navigation of the lower Danube, from Galatz to the sea, so difficult.

But to return to the Sereth. Its shores were inundated to such an extent that the approach to the bridge of boats was flooded to a great height, while the waters still continued rising rapidly. A train of about a hundred cars, heavily laden, and drawn by oxen, had already renounced the passage, and we had to make short work of it. During the crossing, which took us some time, on so narrow and unsteady a bridge, a number of half-naked men pressed on either side of our vehicles, acting as a support to them. Having at length reached *terra firma*, we were greeted by a

detachment of Moldavian gendarmerie, armed with lances, and headed by an officer; this little troop divided for the purpose of escorting us, and at each relay we found a fresh detachment. We owed this considerate attention to the recommendation which the estafettes of the Hospodar of Wallachia had, with great expedition, conveyed to the capital of Moldavia.

The day dragged on slowly, nothing happening to enliven its gloomy monotony, and the carriages moving with little speed. Our guides, in order to avoid the beaten roads, whose slippery surface would have proved an insurmountable obstacle, led us across the plains, where we could only make our way by trampling down the beautiful wild plants, whose stems, thick and tufted, grew to the height of a man. When the first excitement is over, nothing is more disheartening than a journey of this sort, in such unfavourable weather. The rain, like a thick cloud, prevented our enjoying any view of the country; our entire horizon being limited to about fifty steps round us. Unutterable dreariness! Nothing to divert the sight, but an eternal strip of green, intersected by ruts, to which the rain gave the appearance of miniature canals; and nothing to charm the ear, weary of silence, but the perpetual splashing of the horses' feet in the liquid mud. The post-houses were exactly like those in Wallachia: an enclosure

of brushwood, in the midst of which was erected a hut of a sugar-loaf form, a species of oven, always heated in rainy weather, the only issue for the smoke being through the door. In the enclosure were fifty or sixty horses, huddled closely together, motionless, with drooping ears, and receiving with true philosophy the rain, which fell in streams upon their shining backs. Our road followed, though at a distance, the course of the river Barlat, of which I have spoken already, flowing from the north in a direct line to unite itself to the Danube. Between the Barlat and the first western mountains, a vast plain extends in a series of green strips; and across it any path may be chosen, according to one's fancy. As we came near any village, we occasionally met with well cultivated fields; but it was impossible to see or study anything properly amidst the deluge of rain, which threw its own gloomy tinge over everything. Our station that night was Birlatou, chief town of the district, and apparently purposing to become a city, if we judge from the large plan on which its streets are laid out, complete in everything but houses and inhabitants. Birlatou may be pictured as a huge bog of clay, in which our horses sunk up to their stomachs! Our arrival at the portico of the Ispravnitzia, the residence of the chief of the district, was a regular disembarkation. The orders concerning us having

reached during the absence of that functionary, it was one of the subordinates, who, with a graciousness worthy of the master, did the honours of the house; a hospitality of which we stood much in need, after being so long deprived of both rest and sleep. To say the best of it, however, the establishment of the Ispravnik contained no other beds than two long canopies; but it would have ill become travellers in such a country to show themselves fastidious, and the floor of a room in which the greatest cleanliness shone, was soon converted by us into a very endurable bed.

On the 19th of July the sky cleared up, the roads became less impracticable, and we performed the various stages with great speed. Everywhere in Moldavia we met with young and active postillions, full of vigour and intrepidity. These horsemen, who vie with each other in swiftness, are dressed in linen, with a belt and cap of two contrasted colours. With one arm uplifted, body bent forward, and flowing hair, they never cease to send forth piercing cries, which they pique themselves in prolonging to the extent of their powerful lungs. There are three of them; and no sooner does one voice cease, than the other takes it up, each of the three voices relieving the other in turn. These wild cries, fully equivalent to the cracking of the whip, cease only at the post-house. Up hill or down hill, over plain or through

ravine, they clear all at the same speed, and we had immense trouble to get them to stop one of our carriages, when, having seen some birds at a convenient distance, we were prompted with a murderous intent. Moldavia is not wanting in birds of prey. These tyrants of the air hover incessantly in search of victims over the plains overgrown with high grass. In the neighbourhood of a few scattered clumps of trees we met with a bird which is called the rollier : it is in form like a small jay, and its plumage is entirely of a superb blue, reflecting many brilliant colours. This bird is extremely wild, and is not easily approached: its capture would have cost us too much time. What consoled us, however, for not having the bird was, that we already possessed its plumage, having procured it in Wallachia.

The country through which we now travelled was incomparably more beautiful than any we had seen passing through Wallachia. Moldavia does not present the same barren and naked aspect as the plains of Giourjévo. The country is not without variety; and though trees are only rarely met with, the ground is so clad with verdure, so abundantly watered by springs, and, above all, so well adapted for every kind of produce, that it is a matter of regret a spot so favoured by nature, should not be fertilized by the labour of man.

When it is considered how many countries in Europe there are in which the agriculturist has to contend against the encroachments of mountain, rock, and marsh, to secure a soil which can only be rendered fruitful by painful toil and persevering industry, it becomes a source of deep regret that such vast regions, prepared by nature for the work of the ploughshare only, should remain barren for want of hands. From Pesth the Danube waters, one may say, nothing but a succession of abandoned plains. The stream, in the first place, whose frequent inundations overwhelm this devastated land, then war, more terrible still, and more insensible, and lastly, oppression, more odious than war itself, have brought ruin to these countries. Hence is it, that such excellent germs of prosperity have been hitherto miserably blighted. As you traverse these deserts, where neither ploughed land nor crops are seen, you are tempted to pity the people who dwell on such a soil, and to wonder from what source they draw their subsistence. Nevertheless, the inhabitants of Wallachia and of Moldavia find their harvest amply sufficient for the supply of all their wants, and frequently beyond them; for the population is so scanty that many of the lands must remain waste. When this country shall have labourers to make it bear, and men to consume its produce, then, only, will cultivation spread itself and fertilize this vast territory, which

for so many centuries has not felt the ploughshare. From this source would arise many other branches of industry. In the present day, when the legal regulations of the principalities hold out protection to all modes of existence, and to all producers, some good colonies of agriculturists would prove an essential benefit to Moldavia. The new system of organization, which confers the same rights on emigrants as on natives, except those of a political nature, which can be purchased on certain conditions only, appeared to us well calculated to encourage enterprises tending to further the future welfare and prosperity of these lands. The chief obstacle to the agricultural progress of this country will be found, most decidedly, in the wretched condition of the roads, and in the difficulty of remedying this evil. Considering that leagues are travelled over without a sign of the smallest pebble, the construction of roads, solid and firm in all seasons, is no easy matter. So long as dry weather continues, nothing checks the communications, which are as rapid as they are active. The plain is wide, and open for all to choose a pathway. The *caroussi*, carried away by the swiftness of their horses, cross it in a direct line, whilst the heavy waggons with their oxen file off in long trains upon a more secure and already beaten road: let but a few showers, however, fall upon it, the boggy earth, so deep and rich, becomes

suddenly liquified, and the greatest lightness and celerity are necessary to get over the surface. No equipage of a moderate weight can have a chance of moving but at an extremely slow pace.

We were, meanwhile, approaching the capital of Moldavia. We not only cleared the last two stages with wonderful speed, but the harnessing of our horses was now performed with marvellous expedition—thanks to a courier who went in estafette before us, and whose authority seemed to command about him a very unusual degree of activity. Our eyes now feasted at last on a lofty mountain, whose sandy soil abounded with beautiful trees; and as we were ascending with much toil, a storm burst impetuously over us. From the summit of this mountain Yassy could be discovered in the plain beneath, as yet unveiled by the gathering clouds, and lit up by a sunbeam. The aspect of this town from afar is very agreeable, situated as it is in the plain, and surrounded by verdant hillocks. Yassy occupies a large space, with its white houses in the midst of gardens, its shining spires and high buildings with green roofs. The storm was still raging furiously during our slow and perilous descent, and throughout our last stage, until we entered Yassy, which we found in a state of inundation. An escort of twelve horsemen awaited us at the gate of the capital, and we made our entry by a long street

rudely paved with thick planks. The water in this street was a foot deep; but the shops are, with a view to this, prudently raised above the ground by steps or a raised footway. The doors and windows were thronged with an inquisitive crowd, principally Jews. These worthy merchants thought themselves bound respectfully to salute our equipages, streaming with rain and mud. It was a question whether we owed this general politeness to our escort, bearing witness to the honourable attentions of the Hospodar; or whether these good Israelites, seeing the extent of our party, hailed in us a fortunate arrival, from which some profit might be drawn.

After crossing many streets, which in truth were so many running streams, we arrived at length at the hotel of St. Petersburg, where we met with every proof of the most obliging consideration. Several officers received us; a guard of gendarmes was placed at our disposal, to keep watch over our carriages. Added to this, a visit from the Aga himself, in his rich oriental costume, offering us his services, proved that at Yassy, as at Bukharest, we were protected by the most hospitable kindness. The sumptuous style of the hotel we now occupied was more than needful for its purposes; but with all the grandeur and splendid arrangement of the rooms, and the paintings which so profusely cover their

walls, it offers none of the requisites for repairing the fatigues and disorder of a long journey. In these fine saloons, we had no other bed than a billiard table, which fell to the lot of four of our party; the rest had to put up with couches scantily furnished with straw. No accessory comforts alleviated the hardships of this truly Spartan encampment. On beholding the handsome uniforms of many of our numerous circle occupying this saloon, it might have passed for part of a palace; and one would certainly never have suspected that its occupants were vainly pining for the necessaries which the humblest traveller meets with in the most miserable village inn. Nevertheless, we were soon doing the honours of this splendid misery to the highest individuals of the town of Yassy. While still in the thorough disorder of a recent arrival, we were visited by the Prince Soutzo, logothetes of the Interior, whose talents and distinguished manners are justly appreciated in Moldavia. During the few moments I was able to converse with this high functionary, I gathered from him so much information on the condition of the country, that I would not allow him to go, until he had promised to forward to me authentic documents of the actual position of affairs in Moldavia, compared with the previous order of things terminated by the treaty of Adrianople. These valuable notes were effectually

sent to me, with a punctuality and liberality deserving my sincere gratitude. The extract which I have inserted further on was curtailed with regret, to meet the proportions of our chapters; nevertheless it presents an exact summary of the regulations of this principality under its two different phases:—the tyranny of the subaltern agents of the Porte, and the emancipation beneath the protecting shield of enlightened laws and governors.

Early on the morrow, July 20th, we paid a visit to the Hospodar, or Sovereign of Moldavia. Prince Stourdza, who owes his eminent position to election, is the first who was called to exercise sovereignty by virtue of the new organisation, and to put into practice the laws of government so happily originated by Gen. Count Kisseleff. The dwelling of the Hospodar is not an imposing building. The ancient palace, destroyed in 1827 by a dreadful fire, which burnt down two-thirds of the town, covers with its ruins a long hill which commands Yassy. In the absence of any architectural beauties, the sovereign surrounds himself with military display, and the palace is guarded by numerous sentinels. We met with the kindest reception from the prince; and pipes having been introduced, the indispensable preliminary of every interview which the Hospodar intends to prolong, a conversation ensued, in which Prince

Stourdza exhibited a considerable command of language, and an uncommon degree of instruction. The present condition of the regenerated principalities, the working of the regulative government, as the present form of administration is called, the remarkable progress already observable in the public welfare, and the exertions yet to be made in order to attain the desired state of prosperity, were the topics touched upon in our conference, which proved extremely instructive to us as strangers. The prince manifested, more than once, sentiments of the deepest devotion to his people, whom he sees, with sincere sorrow, still subjected to an annual tribute exacted from the principality by Turkey. If the Porte, he said, should ever consent to liberate Moldavia from this heavy burden, he would be prepared to sacrifice his own fortune in order to expedite the advancement of this wretched people, whose sufferings have been so prolonged. Assuredly, such intentions are as honorable as they are rare, and presage a better future for this people. The Hospodar devotes himself with activity and perseverance to public business, and although his health is not always adequate to the noble task he has undertaken, he still perseveres with courage in fulfilling the arduous mission which the election of his fellow-countrymen has imposed upon him. The personal appearance of the prince manifests the effects of his physical

sufferings, kept under by the determination of his character; scarcely forty years of age, he yet bears in his countenance the traces of his heavy cares. The Hospodar is married to a Greek princess of Constantinople, and is the father of two sons, who are being educated at Berlin.

We intended to stay so short a time at Yassy, that we scarcely had the opportunity of receiving all the visits we were honoured with.

Prince Stourdza, however, was kind enough to come in person to our own hotel; and during our sojourn, we were overwhelmed with every mark of kindness and attention; to such an extent, that our meals were more than once enlivened by the Hungarian band of the mining corps. The frugality of our fare was in accordance with the rules of the most rigorous diet, for it might not be that the luxury of our entertainments should war with the simplicity of the furniture.

We were close to the Russian frontier, and we knew that in crossing it, we could not escape quarantine. Fourteen days is the prescribed period: as, however, a fate one cannot avoid should be borne with good grace, we unanimously resolved to enter the lazaretto within the shortest possible time. The twenty-first was at once fixed for the accomplishment of this indispensable and philanthropic incarceration. We had, therefore, only a

few hours to dispose of, to gain an idea of the Moldavian capital. Yassy, as before said, covers a considerable space with its streets and houses, abounding in gardens to a greater extent even than Bukharest. The general appearance of this city is pleasing; the modern constructions recommend themselves by their tasteful style and clean exterior, not exhibited by any of the more ancient buildings. Some of the streets are wide and long, and in certain quarters a pavement has been substituted for the expensive and uncomfortable boarding with which the public road was formerly covered. Here, as in Wallachia, the scarcity of material renders it almost impossible to build monuments of any importance; and yet Yassy possesses several remarkable churches, and some houses belonging to rich Boyards, which present the appearance of complete mansions, in perfect order. The external aspect of this city offers much fewer traces of the oriental style than that of Bukharest. True, the fire in 1829, by destroying the ancient edifices, made way for modern architecture, which in its forms has adopted the style prevalent in the neighbouring cities of New Russia. This capital had scarcely risen from its ashes, when, in 1829, it was desolated by contagious disease. Two years after, the cholera, that horrible rival of the plague, fell upon Yassy, decimating its population; and yet it was under these trying circumstances, amidst

death and destruction, that the seeds of political and social regeneration were emplanted in the Moldavian soil. But when such obstacles have been overcome, to what glory is not the conqueror entitled! and when we see this flourishing town, with its streets daily growing more numerous, filled with intelligent and busy traders, we cannot fail to feel gratitude and respect for the author of so many benefits.

The principal street in this city is inhabited by a tribe of merchants, money-changers, brokers, and business people of all sorts—all children of Israel. These indefatigable traders are at Yassy, what they are everywhere else, insensible to insult, and ardent in the pursuit of gain. In the ancient portion of the street a gallery, supported by slight wooden pillars, serves to shelter the shops; here we see the Jews, seated at the threshold of their doors, eyeing wistfully the passing customer, and chinking a handful of rubles, to announce their vocation of money changers. Stuffs, woollen goods, and German and English hardware, furnish the shelves of these shops; and, strange to say, a French library and reading-room have somehow strayed beneath this colonnade, so entirely usurped by the commerce of Israel. Yassy is not rich in churches, like Bukharest; whether it be owing to the fact that the boyards of ancient times had fewer ill deeds to atone for than those of Wallachia, or from

a deficiency of faith, the capital of Moldavia does not reckon a large number of religious edifices; however, among those it does possess, there is one of remarkable elegance, and altogether too curious a monument to be passed over by the traveller. According to the custom of the country, it is surrounded by a spacious monastery, formerly fortified, and dedicated to three saints—St. Basil, St. John Chrysostom, and St. Gregory the Theosophist. The church is constructed of fine stone, and surmounted by two slender turrets; the entire face of the edifice is studded with arabesques, sculptured in relief upon each layer of stones, and admirably varied. Its narrow windows scarcely allow a few feeble gleams of light to penetrate into the interior, where they struggle for mastery with the sacred lamps burning night and day beneath the arches of its three naves. The gloomy walls of the sanctuary are covered with frescoes, remarkably primitive in style. This rich chapel, which was founded by the Voïevode Basil, about the year 1622, was once entirely gilt in the interior; but in the time of the Tatar and barbarian incursions, it was three times subjected to fire and pillage; added to which, in 1802, an earthquake reduced it almost entirely to ruins. The church of the three saints, Tresphetitili, as it is called in Yassy, formerly possessed a valuable treasure, some relics of which are still extant. One of the most curious of

these is, without gainsay, the collection of pictures embroidered by the Princess Theodosia, the wife of Basil, the pious founder of the church. Among these works, executed with wonderful perfection, is a portrait, the size of life, of the princess herself, the skilful artist who has thrown so life-like an air over these pictures wrought in gold, silk and velvet.. Next to her is her son, the first-born of her twenty-seven children. The Boyard costume which appears in this naïf performance is much more akin to the Hungarian dress than the oriental. Within the rich basilica of this church, the portrait of the voïevode was formerly preserved, but was removed by an unknown hand twenty years ago; if, however, this portrait of Prince Basil, owing to its intrinsic value, fell a victim to an impious thief, there fortunately still remains intact a fresco, upon which the features of the voïevode may be contemplated in the midst of one of his most triumphant acts of devotion—when, his church being finished, he holds up the whole building in his left hand, presenting it to its three patrons, who are showering down their blessings from the arch of Heaven. Nor is this all; the temple once completed, Basil, in the ardour of his Christian zeal, resolved to sanctify it a second time. For a long period, the relics of San Veneranda had been in the profane possession of the Turks; but Basil found the means of rescuing

them from the hands of the infidels, and these venerated remains were brought in triumph into Christian land; the Sultan himself condescending to escort them to the confines of the empire. Such, at least, is the pious legend illustrated by a painting in two compartments, hanging above the remarkably splendid shrine in which the relics are exposed to the faithful.

What more can be said of Yassy, where we passed so few and such fleeting hours! It did not befal us, as in Bukharest, to be present at any of those private *réunions*, in which the true character of a society may be seized in the freedom of general intercourse. As far as we could judge from the persons who honoured us with visits, knowledge and education are not despised among them. The college, attended by young people of good family, is daily progressing. There are three printing establishments in Yassy, employing eleven presses, three of which are applied to the printing of Russian, French, and modern Greek. Within the last few years, a society of natural philosophy and medical science has been established, and its labours have already produced a favourable effect on the intellectual advancement of the public. And, as though it had been generally concerted to show us every mark of kindness and attention, this learned society, taking into consideration the scientific object of our expedition, did us the honour to present my

companions and myself with diplomas of foreign associates. A zoological collection, as yet not much advanced, is the object of the enlightened attention of the Government; and it is proposed to add to it a menagerie, so that there is every hope that Yassy will in a few years furnish its contingent to the great scientific association of Europe, and devote itself in turn to those noble studies which find in the countries of the East a subject of daily growing interest.

But we had soon taken leave of this city; and after having crossed several steep hills, we perceived the sinuous course of the Pruth, and the twofold village of Skoulani—one Moldavian, the other Russian—divided into two by the stream, which now separates the principality from the territories of the empire. In this very spot, a few years since, was enacted a scene as touching as it was solemn: an entire people escorted General Kisseleff, amidst their blessings, back to the confines of Moldavia, of which he had been the guardian and saviour. When the temporary president left the Moldavian shore, he was followed by farewell benedictions, mingled with tears; nor could he, as he gazed for the last time on the country whose welfare he had ensured, refrain from weeping. Precious tears were those! springing from an honest and devoted heart;—touching adieu of the soldier and the legislator, to the country of his

adoption, which he had served with his arm and with his counsels!

The authorities directing the quarantine had been apprised beforehand of our approach, and had prepared lodgings for us in the most melancholy of lazarettos. The sanitary establishment of Skoulani occupies a large space, on a low and damp tract, the level of which barely rises above that of the waters of the Pruth, flowing at no great distance from its walls. At the least rise in the waters, the quarantine is inundated; and this had occurred a very few days before our arrival. Nine small buildings of clay, covered with cane, compose this lazaretto; they are ranged round a spacious court-yard, in which a few cherry trees have been planted. Each house has a separate enclosure; and the entrance is secured by a gate, made of planks: here the carriages are left in the open air, the horses remaining also without shelter. The houses consist only of one floor, which is damp and sandy; they are divided into two or three small apartments, and are under the inspection of a keeper, an old soldier. We were quartered in three of these dens; and each resigned himself, as best he could, to this hermit-like discipline.

Nothing is more favourable than this life of solitude, or rather of tedium, to labours which require some concentration of mind. Accordingly, it was impossible

any of us could be better disposed for study; and we began to collect together our notes. The result of these labours, it appeared to me, would be most fittingly introduced at the time when we were leaving Moldavia, and entering the territory of the empire. Let us give a glance, therefore, at the country we have left behind; at its history, its condition—past, present, and (what shall prevent it?) to come.

The early history of Moldavia is linked in the closest manner with that of Wallachia, of which a few words were said in the foregoing chapter. Scythian, Sarmatian, Dacian, Roman, Barbarian, and lastly, Slavonian, by turns, Moldavia long shared the fate of the neighbouring province. For a long time forming but one body, they did not become twin sisters until the twelfth century. It will be remembered that a number of Tatar hordes, obedient to no law save pillage and devastation, had descended upon these countries, whose inhabitants had emigrated in thousands to Hungary, leaving the soil in the hands of the depredators. Two large colonies were formed by the fugitives, at Fagaratch, and at Mamaroch. The first was composed of the people who afterwards formed Wallachia; the second consisted of emigrants from the eastern portion of the country, who subsequently became Moldavians. When the torrent of Tatars, sweeping over the principalities, had converted them into

a wilderness, they withdrew, and left the wasted fields at the disposal of their former possessors. These, however, would never have contemplated returning to their lost country, had not a fresh invasion, directed this time upon Hungary, driven them from their settlements. Batou-Khan and his Tatars, having fallen upon this kingdom, the dismayed colonists bethought them of their native land—the mountains of their forefathers; and thither they bent their steps. While Rodolf the Black led back the settlers of Fagaratch into Wallachia, Bogdan, chief of the settlement at Mamaroch, directed his march to the country adjoining the Pruth; and both taking the title of voïevode, which they submitted to the suzerainty of Hungary—following a policy commonly adopted by the oppressed—founded the two states, which since then have almost always remained separate one from the other.

About this period, Moldavia received its name from the river which flows through it—the Moldau: subsequently, it was also designated by the name of Bogdania, in memory of Bogdan, its founder; and even to this day it is thus called by the Turks.

For a long time the principalities struggled—now against Hungary, whose suzerainty weighed heavily sometimes on certain adventurous voïevodes; now against the Porte, whose increasing pretensions roused their indignation. But when, in 1526, the celebrated

battle of Mohacs delivered Hungary to the Mussulman yoke, Moldavia, enveloped in the same disaster, became tributary to the Sultan, and was forced into a treaty similar to that by which Wallachia was bonnd.

Towards the end of the sixteenth century, Moldavia, freed for a while from the dominion of the Porte, fell beneath the oppressive hand of Sigismund of Transylvania. This prince, then powerful and formidable, appointed voïevodes, and levied tributes. But Moldavia was soon forced to bend once more beneath the yoke of the Sultan, who punished her imprudent rebellion by exactions more extortionate than before. From this date commenced, for both the principalities, an era of indolence, uncertainty and discouragement. Although the voïevodes continued to be named by the boyards with a vain form of election, it was in reality by the Divan of Constantinople that these princes, the obedient vassals of the Porte, were chosen, and frequently, at its caprice, deprived of power and of life. This state of things long continued to prevail, and it was not till a comparatively recent period that a voïevode of Wallachia, Bessarab, a man of enterprise, but wanting in courage and perseverance, formed a league with Austria in the first instance, and subsequently with Russia, with the object of making war on the Turks. Bessarab, exposed to the vengeance of the Sultan, was on the point of

being drawn into a snare by a voïevode of Moldavia whom the Divan had sent to Yassy on a mission of death, when it fell out that this voïevode himself, by name Demetrius Cantimir, followed the example of Bessarab, and even exceeded it; for, less irresolute than that prince, he delivered up the capital of Moldavia to Peter the Great. This might, perhaps, have proved a decisive blow to the Ottoman power, but the Russians were obliged to desist from their designs. Bessarab, by a fresh act of treason, suddenly yielded submission to the Sultan, and, as we had occasion to mention elsewhere, forfeited his life to his ill-timed wavering. The other voïevode had found time to fly from the fate which awaited him, and had sought a refuge in Russia.

From this time, Moldavia shared in every respect the destiny of the neighbouring principality. In common with Wallachia, and to a greater extent perhaps, she was exposed to the oppression of Turkey, and to the ill-usage of its pashas. Subsequently, to the end of the last century, however, the protection of Russia effected by degrees some amendment of this deplorable state of things. Each new treaty signed by our Empire with the Porte ensured some fresh guarantee favourable to the condition of the principalities.

The progress was slow, it is true; for it was dependent on political events, and impeded by misadventures of

every kind which several times threw the question back to its original conditions. But notwithstanding so many calamities, despite the fatal insurrection of Ypsilanti, who had taken up arms in the very church of the Tres-phetitili, which we have described—an insurrection the consequences of which were incalculably fatal to Moldavia—there was yet a sensible amelioration up to the Treaty of Adrianople, which gave a decided impulse to the present and future improvement of these countries.

What Moldavia was previous to this epoch, and what she is in the present day under her new legitimate government—such is the interesting picture which the useful documents I have mentioned enable me to trace.

Long before the campaign of 1822, Moldavia was still subject to a system of rule in which nothing was regular, nothing stable, and which exhibited the recklessness and rapacity ever accompanying an ill-established government. The unavoidable ascendancy of the suzerain power, and the influence of the neighbouring pashas manifested themselves through the vain forms of a Christian administration. Moldavia was bound to supply the capital of the Ottoman Empire with timber for building purposes, live stock and corn, at prices little better than arbitrary. It was the master himself who stated beforehand at what price these contributions

should be supplied, and having once fixed the price according to its gracious pleasure and rapacity, the Porte let loose its commissaries, who forcibly purchased all the merchandise subject to the tariff.

The maintenance of order in the interior was confided to the Turkish guards (*bechlis*) stationed in all the towns, to the great injury of the unfortunate people whom they were supposed to protect. The fortresses occupied by the Ottoman garrisons on the left bank of the Danube, exercised their influence exclusively over a more or less extended a circle, and overwhelmed the inhabitants with their extortions. The internal government was animated by no principles of protection and guardianship; a temporary Hospodar, foreign to the manners and usages of the country, ruled it according to his gracious pleasure. The necessity of propitiating, by numerous presents, the good-will of the Porte, and of its pashas, and the uncertain tenure of their power, imposed upon these princes the necessity of taking every possible advantage of their ephemeral authority. It is astonishing, that even under the degrading influence of such a position, they should from time to time have founded the few durable institutions which honour the memory of some among them. But with the exception of these rare benefits, their absolute authority was only tempered by the participation of the boyards in public affairs, an impotent counterpoise, for these almost always, for the

sake of a share in the disorderly largesses of the prince, made themselves the docile tools of his will.

The form of the government was as follows:—A vestiar, or minister of finances, united the financial department with the administration of the interior; a postelnich was charged with the relations with the consuls, the pashas and the Porte; two governors, placed over each district, exercised the administrative, judicial and executive functions. Law suits were decided in appeal by the Assembly of Boyards, frequently presided over by the prince, but observing no forms of proceeding. Moreover, there was nothing to prevent each suit being continually renewed with every successive Hospodar. The expeditious mode adopted in settling all affairs, whether administrative or judicial, was fettered by no special rules or formalities; and, properly speaking, there existed neither archives, records, nor exchequer. Vexatious imposts abounded under a thousand pretexts. The total amount of the poll tax was first assessed to each district, according to its population; and afterwards the governors of each district could subdivide it in what proportion they chose among the communes.

A second direct impost, under the name of *rassours*, supplied the emoluments of the servants of the government. The inhabitants were, moreover, subjected to indirect taxes, under the designatoin of *rassoumats;* these were taxes on bee-hives, sheep, pigs, tobacco and vineyards. Carriage,

weights and measures and distilleries were also subject to special taxes; and besides this, as though in mockery of the groaning tax-payers, several localities were subject to certain exceptional dues, confirmed if not justified by time.

The following tables will give an idea of the financial position of the country at this disastrous period:

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF MOLDAVIA,

For the Year 1827, before the entering of the Russian troops.

REVENUE.	Piastres.	Asp.
Impost on villagers ..	984,386	60
On mazils and roup-taches	73,741	„
On shops and taverns ..	112,000	„
On patents.....	51,592	„
On tavern-keepers....	18,190	„
Roupts of the vestiary	38,036	„
Foreigners' Patents ..	13,074	„
	1,296,019	60
Estimated revenue of salt mines.....	212,060	„
Revenue of the district of Botochani, received by the princess	56,800	„
Rassours	741,829	87
Estimated revenue from the post establish-ments	300,739	„
Duty on sheep, 87,905		
Do. on hives and pigs... 87,470		
Do. on vines.. 300,000	758,110	
Customs 208,950		
Duty on dis-tillery 73,785		
	3,365,558	27

EXPENDITURE.	Piastres.	Asp.
Part of impost paid yearly to the rassour fund	25,000	„
Revenue of Botochani received by the princess.....	56,800	„
Arrears of revenue, called gragedika, from the year 1827, dis-covered and paid after the entry of the Rus-sian troops	40,257	27
Salaries paid by the rassour fund	1,079,518	81
For the Post	300,739	„
Money given by com-mand of the prince, according to orders signed by him, viz., surplus appropriated by the prince, or ac-cording to his orders	1,863,263	39
	3,365,558	27

DUES EXACTED FROM EACH VILLAGER, UP TO 1827.

	Piast.	Asp.
Impost paid quarterly	12	,,
Rassours	4	60
Tax for the maintenance of post houses	4	,,
Gragedika and rassoumats	7	90
Expended for penalties called tribotés	3	,,
Forced labour, estimated value of	40	,,
	78	30

The collection of taxes so complicated gave rise, it may be easily believed, to a multitude of abuses; as the produce of the imposts was paid into the prince's treasury, who rendered account of it to no one. Moreover, the peasant was subject to loans in kind, to requisitions for the postal relays and for the prince's stables—and lastly, to every exaction it pleased the inferior agent to inflict.

The condition of the tax-payer, of which this enumeration, in some respects imperfect, may furnish an idea, was aggravated by the exemptions and immunities granted to several classes of inhabitants, and by privileges accumulated upon influential Boyard families. These unjust immunities rose to a total amount, sufficiently imposing to render a tabular statement of them interesting, now that such a state of things is a mere matter of history.

The classes enjoying exemption from taxes under the dynasty of the Greek Princes were numerous. It was sufficient that a member of any family was employed in one of the following branches of the public service,

to free the entire family. Each district accordingly contained an ample number of the exempt of all classes. No impost could be levied on the families of persons connected in whatever way with—

The Ispravnitzy of the District ;
The Vestiary ;
The Captainries ;
The Service of the Hetmans ;
The Mounted Police ;
The Service of the Salt-Works ;
The Postal service ;
The Frontier Guard ;
The Timber Purveyors ;
The Charcoal Burners ;
The Postillions.

The district of Yassy, and the administration of the city, carried the privilege of immunities still further. Beside the classes above specified, exemption was extended to :

Persons in the service of the Exchequer ;
Persons in the service of the Divan ;
The Guards of the Pruth ;
The Firemen ;
The Water Carriers ;
The Inspectors of Fountains ;
The Couriers ;
Persons in the Public Health Department ;
Carters in the service of the Court ;
Labourers, ditto ;
Custom-house Officers ;
Cabinet Makers ;
Masons.

The result of this short-sighted and iniquitous distinction, granted for trifling services, was, that the hard-working classes of the people were cruelly oppressed, while in the sixteen districts the number of exempted families amounted to 7,985 ; making, if we take five

as the average number in each family, 39,925 individuals placed among the privileged class, at the expense of the labourer. Nor was this all.

Independently of these privileges, already so exorbitant, it had become customary that a Boyard should possess the right of exempting from taxes a number of individuals proportionate to the rank he held. These unhappy privileged individuals were called *socotelniks*, and were distributed in the following proportions:

VARIOUS CLASSES OF BOYARDS.	Number of Exempt due to each Class.	VARIOUS CLASSES OF BOYARDS.	Number of Exempts.
Grand Logothetes	80	Serdars	14
Vornicks		Stolniks	12
Hetmens		Medelnitzers	9
Vestiars		Clouteheres	8
Postelniks		Souldiers	6
Agas	40	Pilars	5
Spattars		Chatrars	3
Banos	25	Giknitzers	4
Comisses	22	2nd Spattars	8
Caminars	20	3rd Vestiars	8
Paharniks	16		

Socotelniks were also granted to the Metropolitan, to the Bishops, and to some other persons of distinction.

Thus overwhelmed with dues and exactions, harassed on all sides, exposed at one and the same time to the oppression of the Turks, to the ravages of the plague, to the requisitions of the government, and to

the tyranny of the land-owners, the Moldavian peasant was deprived even of hope—the last consolation of the wretched. Property—that safeguard of nations—was uncertain in its tenure, and frequently changed hands, while the facility of protracting law suits perpetuated private hostilities among the citizens. The instability of the government, and the uncertainty of the future, prevented all useful and durable enterprise. The public mind remained dark and degraded, industry was stifled, trade obstructed; and thus, while all its neighbours were marching forward, this unfortunate land of Moldavia continued fixed in its misery and bondage.

At length the Treaty of Adrianople put an end to all these evils. The fundamental stipulations of this fortunate truce, the results of which were to prove of such immense importance to Moldavia, extended equally to Wallachia, and were—the election of native Hospodars, appointed for life; the evacuation of the fortresses, till then occupied by the Turks, on the left bank of the Danube; the restoration to its legitimate possessors of the land included within the circle of the aforesaid fortresses; the abolition of supplies at arbitrary prices; the prohibition against any Mahomedan establishing himself on the Moldavian territory; the institution of a quarantine on the Danube; the establishment of an armed force; and lastly, the adoption of an organic

code, based upon the principle of an independent administration of internal affairs.

This organic code, voted by the assembly of the Boyards, became the depôt in which the guarantees of Moldavian nationality were organised, and received their required extension. The ever to be revered administration of Kisseleff, the guardian genius of the principalities, soon rendered its application possible; and the governments continue in the present day to march forward according to the wise traditions he has left.

We will sketch, in a few words, the mechanism and effects of this new government.

The constitutional system which the treaties conferred on the principalities, may be summed up thus:

The administrative and judicial functions are separate. The administrative department is confided to a council composed of the logothetes, chief of the department of the interior; of the vestiar, or chief of the department of finances; and of the postelnik, or secretary of state at the head of foreign affairs.

The direction of judicial affairs is in the hands of the logothetes of the department of justice.

The hetman is chief of the army.

The office of logothetes of the interior embraces all that belongs to the administration, properly so called: the police, municipalities, measures to ensure a proper

supply of food, the superintendence of quarantines, the maintenance of roads, and the registration of civil acts, are within his province.

In the province of the vestiar are classed the collection of taxes, the management of public accounts, the public farms, and the development of commerce generally.

The postelnik corresponds with the consular agents, manages all that refers to the interests of foreign subjects, and draws up all the acts emanating from the prince or the council.

The council assemble on certain days to transact the affairs of government.

The logothetes of the department of justice superintends judicial affairs. He is the organ through which the prince communicates with the tribunals, and *vice versâ ;* he submits to the prince his observations on the defects of certain forms, as well as all judgments delivered in last resort, which have to be approved by the signature of the sovereign.

These fundamental arrangements have given rise to a number of important institutions, of which we shall enumerate the chief.

The districts, formerly to the number of sixteen, were reduced to thirteen by a recent and more judicious subdivision. Each district is governed by an officer, called an ispravnik, who receives from the members of the

council orders relative to the respective departments of each. A receiver of taxes resides in the district, representing the interests of the public treasury; and a tribunal of first resort is established. Each district is divided into several arrondissements, generally five or six; and a subordinate functionary presides over each, under the title of superintendent.

The police service of the interior is performed by a corps of gendarmes, organised since the introduction of the constitution, under the name of stougitors. They are 1,200 in number; 266 are employed in the city of Yassy, and in the service of different administrations, and 934 are distributed over the districts, under the orders of the ispravniks and the superintendents; they are maintained chiefly at the expense of the communes.

The police of the city of Yassy has been organised on a more regular footing; a commissary watches over each of the four sections of the city, and has three subordinate officers under his orders. Thanks to the revenue of the municipality, a brigade of 100 firemen has been formed, and this useful establishment has given continued proofs of courage and discipline.

Since the organisation of the stougitors, the depredations by armed robbers, an evil of which we have before spoken, have ceased to afflict the rural districts. The majority of these brigands were foreigners—generally

Albanians, Servians, and Transylvanians. The species of robbery to which the lower class of people in Moldavia are most commonly addicted, is domestic theft and cattle lifting. The statistical table of crimes and offences inserted below speaks, however, sufficiently well in favour of the public morality in Moldavia:—

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF CRIMES AND OFFENCES.

	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838
Remainder of convicted persons from preceding year	75	60	168	182	84	..	48
Malefactors arrested during the year	324	505	507	455	286	186	232
	399	565	675	637	370	186	280
Condemned to capital punishment .	..	..	1	10	5	..	..
„ „ the salt mines.....	124	112	133	56	19	..	18
„ „ public works	76	93	101	70	..	..	57
„ „ transportation	..	23	62	27	..	..	7
„ „ imprisonment in monasteries	4	5	9	7	..	..	6
„ „ simple imprisonment	..	..	..	6	..	..	..
Liberated on bail	195	164	180	227	..	..	..
Acquitted	..	..	..	108	..	..	106
Deceased	..	..	4	42	..	..	8

The chief town of each district now possesses a gaol; but the central prison is established in a large building at Yassy, in which also the criminal tribunal is held. During the time when depredations by brigands were,

the most frequent, the number of prisoners never exceeded 200; nor, on the other hand, did it ever fall below 100. Thanks to the new system of things, the number is reduced to from 30 to 60. The allowance for the maintenance of this prison is 30,000 piastres per annum.

Another prison at the mines, and two houses of detention before trial, at Yassy, complete the prison organisation; the whole number of penal establishments in Moldavia amounting to 17.

One of the finest institutions with which the new form of government has endowed Moldavia, is, without gainsay, that of the municipalities. Their number was at first limited to six principal towns; but others soon demanded a similar benefit. At present, Yassy, Galatz, Fokschany, Birlatou, Botochani, Bakeou and Tirgou-Fourmosse are in the enjoyment of this institution. The municipal councils are elected yearly, by the principal inhabitants of each town. The revenues of the communes consist chiefly of an entrance duty on fermented and spirituous liquors, and tobacco. These revenues, of which we subjoin a comparative statement, afford a very efficacious support to the progressive movement and ameliorations which had become necessary to the town. The paving and lighting of the streets; the preventive measures against fire; the construction of several stone bridges; are all improvements which could never have been introduced, but for the municipal revenues.

PROGRESS OF THE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF THE MUNICIPALITIES.

	Year 1833.		Year 1834.		Year 1835.		Year 1836.		Year 1837.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	piastres.	piastres.	piastres.	piastres.	piastres.	piastres.	piastres.	piastres.	piastres.	piastres.
Botochani	53,351	48,447	56,622	39,219	65,131	46,525	80,319	42,316	120,001	47,432
Romano	28,172	19,689	31,554	20,587	28,428	28,424	17,463	18,827	26,406	23,384
Fokschani	37,147	38,521	44,967	42,186	55,624	45,999	54,224	36,595	68,927	32,739
Galatz	84,535	59,570	97,861	81,679	73,906	48,402	90,526	53,061	113,037	59,686
Birlatou	23,333	13,733	30,844	22,065	33,501	25,604	27,957	14,943	31,959	21,174
Yassy	202,914	241,148	206,364	235,208	306,925	374,769	353,219	284,558	456,024	424,423

It may be again mentioned here, that the piastre, the monetary unit of Moldavia, is equivalent, at the average rate of exchange, to 0 fr. 36,74 c. French. We have given at length, in the preceding chapter, the calculations on which this evaluation is based.

Moldavia being hitherto a purely agricultural country, the public welfare must necessarily depend chiefly on the abundance and good quality of the harvests. The dearth which prevailed during the period from 1831 to 1835, by demonstrating the necessity for some system of regulations with respect to the supply of food, turned the attention of the government to agricultural produce; so that, by a fortunate compensation, this visitation powerfully contributed to develop the cultivation of corn. Abundance soon succeeded, and prices fell to a tenth of their former rate; but that which will in future insure a proper supply of food to the consumers, and preserve them from the enormous prices to which corn rose in times of dearth, is the establishment of reserved stores. Each commune possesses its store of grain, to which every villager is bound to contribute, immediately after the harvest, five bushels of Indian corn, which are to remain untouched for a space of three years. At the expiration of this term, the peasant is allowed to withdraw the deposit made by him four years before; and in this manner the stores always contain a quantity equal to the deposits of three years. By such wise precautions, the public is ensured against a sudden scarcity, and against an exorbitant increase in the price of food.

We insert here a comparative view of the amount of grain sown in the principality, at two different periods,

in order to show the benefits resulting from the new government. We have added some of the notions prevailing in Moldavia, as to the relative amount of produce to be obtained in agriculture.

GRAIN SOWN.

	1832.	1833.	OBSERVATIONS.
	hectol.	hectol.	This table has been formed from a statement using the Moldavian measure called *kilo*. The figures have been converted into the French decimal system, taking the Moldavian kilo as equal to 2¼ Russian tchetverts, or 5¼ hectolitres.
Wheat and Rye .	137,634	343,156	
Barley and Oats .	90,368	145,346	
Maize	120,299	155,794	
Millet	3,869	5,885	
Buckwheat.....	4,956	19,472	
Potatoes.....	31,762	66,665	

Taking the average produce of the various qualities of soil in Moldavia, the harvests of these two years may be estimated as follows:—

PRODUCE OF HARVESTS.

	1832.	1833.	OBSERVATIONS.
	hectol.	hectol.	The following average rates of produce have been taken:—
Wheat and Rye .	1,238,706	3,088,404	Wheat and Rye. 9 for 1
Barley and Oats .	903,680	1,453,460	Barley and Oats 10 — 1
Maize	4,811,960	6,231,760	Maize ..... 40 — 1
Millet	154,760	235,400	Millet ..... 40 — 1
Buckwheat.....	173,460	681,520	Buckwheat .... 35 — 1
Potatoes.....	317,620	666,650	Potatoes .....100 — 1

The establishment of a quarantine on the Danube, is another remarkable benefit of this new order of things. Many a time has the scourge of contagion met with a salutary check from this vigilant institution. Quarantine is fixed at Galatz; it is under the protection of the militia, and consists of a sanitary committee, composed of the inspector-general of the lazarettos of both principalities, of the chief of the department of the interior, of the hetman, and of the principal physician.

The public medical service, which is under the inspection of the board of health, comprises one head physician, four doctors, who have each a division of Yassy for their practice, another placed at the hospital of St. Spiridon, and several surgeons; besides these, there are doctors employed by government in the principal district towns, who, in their respective range of inspection, leave no part of the country unvisited.

The making and mending of the public roads is at the expense of the communes, a fixed sum being assigned for this purpose of about 75,000 piastres; this sum, it may well be conceived, is but very insufficient for the keeping up of regular roads, the soil of Moldavia being of such a nature as to require a very expensive system. The sum allotted, therefore, only suffices for the repair of the roads within a short distance of towns and villages; and even this, in the rainy season, it is in vain to attempt.

The annual sum of 125,000 piastres is granted for the paving of the town of Yassy; but this sum proving insufficient to renew the pavement, proprietors of houses situated in the streets are called upon to contribute, during seven years, in proportion to the space occupied by their houses in the street intended to be paved.

Before the introduction of this regulative system, which tends to give new life to these countries, the principal establishments of public service, deprived by the unhappy state of the times of any permanent or adequate resources, were given up to mere chance; their poverty rendered them inefficient. This regulative organisation assigned to each branch of public administration a fixed and certain revenue. These endowments are designated Benevolent Funds; they are four in number, and each is directed by three or four Boyards, selected by the prince, to whom the title of curator is given.

The meeting of the curators, presided over by the metropolitan, forms the council of Benevolent Funds.

The first is that for the schools: it has four curators, and its revenues amount to 400,000 piastres; it is directed to public instruction. I here insert a table of the comparative condition of this department.

DAY SCHOLARS AT THE SCHOOLS OF	In 1832.	In 1834.	In 1838.
Yassy	225	515	472
Fokschani	33	68	93
Birlatou	60	100	66
Galatz	44	61	85
Houche	45	58	80
Romano	32	121	37
Botochani	67	62	103
	506	985	936
FOR THE TOWN OF YASSY.			
Bursers to the College	25	50	64
Boarders	...	24	50
Institution for young girls	...	70	72
Town schools	...	...	66
	531	1,129	1,188

The second Benevolent Fund, is that for the hospital established in the monastery of Saint Spiridon. This institution has a special revenue. It is governed by three curators, and can receive 200 patients.

The Fund for almsgiving is directed by the metropolitan curator. It is endowed by the vestiary with a revenue of 72,000 piastres.

Lastly, the fund for the waterworks is applied to the repair of the aqueducts and fountains; at present it has no curator, for the repairs are done by agreement, at

the cost of 50,000 piastres, which constitute the revenue of this fund.

The assembly of curators forms, as I have said before, the central committee, whose object is to control the revenue and outlay of each of these funds, to propose measures for general improvement and economy, and to maintain the observance of the statutes which regulate the management of these funds for the public service. The head of the department of the Interior acts as the medium of communication between the central committee, whether with the prince, or the General Assembly.

The mode of taxation, and the rate of tax, have varied essentially since the introduction of the new system. All the ancient dues, loans in kind, and statute labour, were simultaneously abolished, and replaced by the single tax of 30 piastres upon every family, and by a patent duty upon every merchant and artisan, of from 60 to 240 piastres. For the proper collection of this tax, the new regulation provides that a census of the classes liable to the tax, be drawn out every seven years, and that during that period all increase or diminution in the inhabitants of a commune shall be to the advantage or charge of that commune. The first census took place during 1831, and the second occurred in 1837. The sum assessed to each commune being fixed unalterably, according to the number of its families, noted down

on the census sheet, the tax is levied by the commune itself, each family being rated according to the number of cattle possessed by them. Every commune has, in addition, a common fund, to which each family is obliged to subscribe one-tenth of the poll-tax, or three piastres per annum; by means of this contribution, the expenses of collecting the tax are defrayed, and any deficit caused by the absence or death of contributors, is made up.

The revenue and expenses of the state, mentioned further on, will occupy a special table. The accounts are conducted in the following manner: the vestiar, at the close of every month, presents to the council of administration a summary of the general state of his receipts and outlay; this is forwarded to the controller for examination, who, adding thereto his observations, when required, submits it to the council; after which, the result of this examination is handed up to the general assembly, and becomes subject to a final revision.

The rights and reciprocal duties of proprietors and of cultivators have been regulated by a law; the aim of this law was, in the first place, to fix the relations between landlords and peasants on a just foundation of reciprocity, and also to give the villager, till then bound to remain on the same glebe, the right of

transferring his dwelling from one place to another, according as his own interests demanded. This privilege of transporting his household goods to the place of his own choice, was doubtless a great benefit conferred on the Moldavians. The villager is entitled by law to a space of 10 pragins, or 360 square toises, for his house and vegetable garden; a faltosh and-a-half, or 4,320 square toises of arable land; 40 pragins, or 1,440 square toises of meadow, and 20 pragins, or 720 square toises of pasture land; each peasant receives, moreover, for each yoke of oxen employed by him 60 pragins, or 2,160 toises of meadow, and the same of pasturage, in addition to the allowances above stated*. In return for all these advantages, and this extent of land, the peasant is required to give up to his landlord twelve days labour, and to perform carriage, for from eight to sixteen hours, or in two turns, at an interval of from one to eight hours. Each peasant gives, moreover, annually four days labour, but this time on his own land; and consequently he is himself profited by the work. Such are the principal provisions of this protecting law; and many peasants would be contented with a similar lot in countries which are held to be in

* Supposing a Moldavian to be equal to a Russian toise, or about two metres, a peasant possessing one yoke of oxen would be entitled to an extent of land equal to 450 hectares.

a more advanced condition. By a further provision of this law, however, it frequently happens that the landlord makes additions or retrenchments in these conditions, with the consent of the farmer, and these agreements have the force of law.

Before speaking of the army and the judicial organisation, it is essential that we should give an idea of one of the fundamental institutions established by the constitution, namely, the ordinary Assembly General.

This assembly is composed of:

The metropolitan, who is the president;

Of two bishops, the diocesans of Romano and of Houche;

Of sixteen Boyards, chosen from the several degrees of rank, from the logothetes to the bano, inclusively. These magistrates must be natives of the country, at least thirty years of age, and domiciled in the city of Yassy: these qualifications are required of Boyards in the capital, to become electors or eligible.

There are also thirteen members from the districts, elected by the landed proprietors of each district; these must be Boyards or sons of Boyards, at least thirty years of age, but in the districts it is not required that the electors should be more than twenty-five years of age.

The metropolitan and the two bishops are, by their own

right, members of the Assembly; the sixteen Boyards of Yassy are appointed by the electors of the capital; the sixteen Boyards from the districts, by the electors of each district. The Assembly thus constituted lasts for five years; it is convoked on the 1st of December in each year, to examine the accounts of the vestiary and of the two benevolent funds; to appoint the holders of public farms; and to participate in the enactment of such public measures as exceed the limits of an administrative ordinance. The legal duration of the session is limited to two months, but it is generally prolonged beyond this period. The prince, by a message addressed to the Assembly, proclaims the opening or close of the session.

The establishment of a disciplined army dates also from the enactment of the constitution. The army is supplied by recruits and volunteers; it is commanded by the hetman, assisted by a general staff, and consists of one regiment, half infantry and half cavalry. According to the present state of the army, this regiment is composed of a battalion and a squadron; a superior officer marches at the head; the battalion is commanded by a major, and the squadron by a captain. The army costs the state a yearly sum of 650,000 piastres, and this excludes the prince's staff, the maintenance of which absorbs 80,000 piastres. A portion of the troops are

garrisoned in Yassy, but the greater part are stationed along the sanitary *cordon* of the Danube, and at the principal points of the Moldavian frontier. A detachment is posted over the salt mines, in which the convicts work.

The administration of justice is organised on an entirely new footing. Tribunals of the first resort have been established in all the chief towns of the district; two courts of appeal and a criminal court are held at Yassy, and a commercial tribunal at Galatz; lastly, under the designation of princely divan, a supreme court pronounces judgment in final appeal. The district tribunals take cognizance of all civil, commercial and criminal affairs; their competence does not extend beyond cases involving a value of 1,500 piastres, and an appeal is open on furnishing security to the amount of 20 per cent. The competence of the appeal courts, and of the tribunal of commerce, is limited to a value of 20,000 piastres; and their judgments may be appealed from, on furnishing security. It is equally requisite to furnish security, whatever the importance of the case may be, whenever the judgment of the court of appeal confirms that of the inferior tribunal. From the princely divan, or supreme court, there is no appeal; its decrees are confirmed by the prince, who either presides in person, or is represented by a substitute.

Together with this new system of judicial administration, the constitution has prescribed forms of proceeding, of which there had previously been no notion. By these means, as rational as they are productive of expedition, it has been possible to introduce some order and lucidity into the endless accumulation of suits which, under the neglect of former governments, threatened to become eternal.

Such were the principal reforms introduced in 1832; they embrace, it will be observed, the entire system of relations between the government and its subjects; and they have proved to Moldavia the commencement of a new and prosperous era.

It was in the course of the year 1834, that the provisional government appointed by Russia was succeeded by that of a native prince. A period of two years had sufficed to General Kisseleff to make the inhabitants of the country understand and feel the happy results of the reform over which he presided; and to develope, in all their effects, the principles of law and order which have been substituted for the arbitrary power and abuses of the old government. Thus could this man, fortunate as he was wise, behold, ere his departure, the benedictions of the two principalities fall upon his labours, and the public weal firmly established and defended by the guarantees with which he had been careful

to surround it; and on finally departing, he left—noble, indeed, was the parting token—the vestiary, the public coffers, and the municipalities, in the most flourishing condition. The army, whose existence dated only three years back, by its discipline and orderly appearance, seemed to call into question the recency of its organisation; the quarantine, conducted and protected with zeal and honesty, could already claim to be ranked with the most ancient establishments of the kind. Commerce, delivered from all obstructions, had taken an extension until then unknown; and the capital, which began to be employed in various useful enterprises, imparted a sensible progressive movement to the wealth of the country. It is certainly true that several elements of prosperity which the new form of administration conferred on Moldavia did not bear their fruits till a later period; but time alone can determine the value of new institutions.

Those principles of order and prosperity which had been implanted by General Kisseleff, his successor had to put into practice by degrees, as the growing resources of the new government came to his assistance; and effectually every year a certain degree of progress is shown, in the reports of the government to the Assembly of Boyards, to have been effected.

Agriculture, the produce of which has been so abundant,

that, in spite of a most active exportation, there has frequently occurred a surplus, is beginning to give place to other branches of industry, which will give an impetus to the commerce of the interior, now threatened with stagnation.

The year 1837, signalised by an incredible degree of activity, witnessed the most extensive cultivation of land, the improvement of the breed of cattle, the introduction of merino sheep; and lastly, an essay, though as yet but a timid one, at establishing several small manufactories, such as paper-mills, potteries, &c.

The following account of the value of imports and exports, although it must be looked upon as extremely incomplete, will, however, bear witness to the progress in the industry and activity of the country.

	Exports.	Imports.
In 1832 ...	11,862,430 piast.	13,612,947 piast.
1833 ...	12,262,356	18,307,732
1834 ...	12,386,104	14,515,117
1835 ...	13,271,497	11,812,518
1836 ...	18,953,772	14,217,393
1837 ...	17,353,611	10,878,021

The progressive increase in the revenue, from the farming out of the customs, and from the export duties on cattle and corn, bears a natural relation with the progress of commerce. The districts situated near Galatz principally export corn, tallow, skins, wax and wines; those adjoining the Austrian frontier trade in cattle, and

carry on several distilleries of brandy, the residue from which is used to fatten the cattle, which they export. It may be stated, without exaggeration, that from fifty to sixty thousand head of cattle are sent out of Moldavia annually. In short, the produce of this fertile soil, compared with the rate of purchase of land, may be estimated, in the present state of things, at seven or eight per cent.

We cannot conclude these statements more appropriately, than by a table of the comparative revenue and expenditure of the principality at certain given periods; and finally, of the septennial census, taken according to the law, and upon which the new resources of the country will be based.

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TABLE OF COMPARATIVE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN THE PRINCIPALITY OF MOLDAVIA IN 1834 AND 1839.

	BUDGET OF 1834.	BUDGET OF 1839.
	Piastres.	Piastres.
Poll-tax on villagers ,, ,, persons without fixed domicile ,, ,, mazils, and rouptaches ,, ,, patented foreigners ,, ,, Jew tavern keepers and others ,, ,, patented merchants, and artisans ,, ,, Tsigans of the State	5,239,275	6,161,935
Farming of Salt-works	850,000	765,000
,, ,, Customs	486,999	898,128
,, ,, Export duty on cattle	322,717	567,000
Tax on foreigners	60,000	20,000
Contributions of monasteries, per mem. 450,000	...	...
,, ,, metropolitan diocese and bishoprics	60,000	60,000
Passport duty	12,000	12,000
Duty on Tallow	10,500	7 843
	7,041,482	8,491,956

EXPENDITURE.

	BUDGET OF 1831.	BUDGET OF 1838.
	Piastres.	Piastres.
Tribute to the Porte	..	740,000
Civil list of the Prince	800,000	1,200,000
Salaries of public servants and functionaries	1,962,663	2,132,236
Salary of agent at Constantinople	60,000	80,000
Rent of houses	50,000	60,000
Lighting and firing for offices	60,000	60,000
Maintenance of stougitors in the service of public departments and tribunals	538,700	327,370
Maintenance of army	650,000	730,000
,, ,, quarantine	100,000	120,000
,, ,, postal establishments	442,000	442,000
Postal expenses for public service	85,000	75,000
Indemnity to socotelniks and pensions	1,000,000	1,000,000
Repair of public roads	25,000	75,000
Maintenance of schools	200,000	200,000
,, ,, the seminary	60,000	60,000
Pavement of Yassy	125,000	125,000
Maintenance of medical service	80,000	100,000
,, ,, prisoners	30,000	30,000
,, ,, fountains and water-works	50,000	50,000
Indemnity to the Hospital of St. Spiridon	21,000	21,000
Contribution to the alms fund	72,000	72,000
Extraordinary expenses	80,000	400,000
Expenses of census	..	150,000
	6,491,368	7,949,606 (*)

(*)—One-tenth of the salaries of public servants is also devoted to the schools, which brings the amount allowed for public instruction to 400,000 piastres.

A census, taken conformably with the law at the end of the year 1837, will give us a notion of the variation of the population of Moldavia during the last six years. This calculation, however, is insufficient to give the exact amount of the population of the

principality, as it scarcely includes more than the families who are subject to the tax. It is to be remarked, that in Moldavia, as in Wallachia, an important portion of the population, under various pretexts, still enjoy an exemption from taxation, often productive of sad results. We have already mentioned to what an extent, under the preceding system, the abused extension of these immunities is opposed to the prosperity of the provinces. How much is it to be regretted, that such a wise reform should have stopped short in so good a path, and that equal taxation — the only equality possible at such a time—was not proclaimed in these beautiful provinces! Here is, however, a list of the privileged:—

Boyards;

Public Servants of all ranks;

The Clergy, and all employed in the service of Churches;

Persons in the employ of the Boyards;

Strangers whose sojourn is not authorised.

Some other classes enjoy, besides, the privilege of conferring, in certain cases, the right of exemption. For example—all proprietors on whose estates less than two hundred families are maintained, have the right to exempt from taxes two families out of every ten; if the property contains a greater number of inhabitants, the exemption then applies to only one-tenth of the families.

The stougitors—the gendarmes of the country—cause three families to participate in the exemption. Every soldier on active duty exempts by right one family. Finally, infirm persons and invalids are excused from all contribution.

Hence it follows that the classes on whom devolves the weight of the taxes, is limited to these :

1st. Patented merchants and artisans, taxed from 60 to 240 piastres a year ;

2nd. The collateral descendants of privileged families, designated mazils, rouptaches, and rouptes of the vestiary, paying an annual tax of 30 piastres ;

3rd. The inhabitants of villages, taxed at 30 piastres a-year, besides an assessment of one-tenth, payable to the commune ;

4th. Persons without a fixed habitation contributing a poll-tax of 10 piastres ;

5th. Foreigners dwelling in the country rated annually at 15 piastres ;

6th. Jews carrying on the trade of tavern-keepers in the villages, 60 piastres ;

7th. Finally, the Tsigans of the state, paying 38 piastres a-year.

Having stated these facts, we now give the result of the general census of families liable to taxes, as taken in 1838 :—

Name of the district.	Chief Towns.	Population liable to contribution.
Dorohoi	Michaïleni	12,946
Botochani	Botochani	18,073
Souczava	Falticheni	11,082
Niamtzo	Piatre	15,018
Romano	Romano	12,933
Bakéo	Bakéo	23,230
Poutna	Fokschani	21,746
Tecoutz	Tecoutz	14,211
Covourloni	Galatz	10,312
Toutova	Birlatou	13,881
Vasloui	Vasloui	13,768
Fattchi	Houche	10,628
Yassy	Yassy	22,693
Total of taxed families		200,521

If we adopt the calculation in use in Moldavia, which makes five the average number of each family, the entire population will be represented by 1,002,605

As all data are wanting, however, by which a notion could be formed as to the number of individuals — of course, very considerable — which the present state of the law exempts from contributing to the public expenses, we shall not attempt any estimate; especially as, up to the present day, the official documents have presented no numerical statement of any importance, as to these privileged classes.

It may be deduced, however, from this very incomplete information, that Moldavia, since 1832, has witnessed a very considerable increase in the number of its tax-payers; at that period the census stated the number of families at 165,685—making	828,425
This exhibits an increase of	174,180

Since the establishment of civil registers, the number of births and deaths in the principalities may be ascertained. The following table shows that each year there is a notable excess in favour of the births. This surplus presents an average of 9,769 births per annum, with the exception of the year 1833, signalised by the passage of the cholera. There can be no doubt that the better condition of the people, owing to the new state of things, is the cause of this increase of population.

Years.	Births.			Marriages.	Deaths.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.		Men.	Women.	Total.
1832	12,809	11,096	23,905	11,012	7,238	6,121	13,359
1833	12,122	10,293	22,415	7,784	11,893	10,768	22,661.
1834	12,725	11,530	24,255	9,038	9,045	8,270	17,315
1835	13,024	10,712	23,736	7,260	7,497	6,324	13,821
1836	13,782	11,722	25,504	7,367	6,860	6,046	12,906
1837	12,601	11,341	23,942	8,909	6,089	5,543	11,632

It does not result from any observations made by us, that the physical constitution of Moldavia presents any

remarkable difference from that of the neighbouring principality: the same chain of mountains forms the western boundary of the two countries; and if, indeed, it has been noted that the winters are more severe at Yassy than at Bukharest, this difference is explained by the respective latitudes of the two capitals. Moldavia has experienced more frequently those shocks of earthquake which occasionally visit these regions.

The Moldavians are robust, temperate, hard-working, and inured to the most opposite extremes of temperature. Their features differ from those of the Wallachian people: their countenances are less open; and the habit they have preserved, of wearing their beards and hair long, gives an almost savage expression to their physiognomy, to such a degree, that at a distance they might be taken for those primitive statues of the Sarmatians to be seen in museums of antiquity, mementos of the triumphs of Rome over the barbarian. Among the Wallachians, on the contrary, we meet with a larger development of stature, and a greater amount of beauty. As though more deeply impressed with the nomadic habits of their ancestors, the Moldavians more frequently perform long journeys on foot than their neighbours. Assembled together in large caravans, they traverse immense distances, and carry, as far as the streams to the east of Russia, the commodities with which the towns scattered over the vast plains in that direction are supplied. The

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MOLDAVIAN WAGGONS.

Moldavians travel across these steppes, following the slow and measured pace of their oxen, and are sometimes an entire month without approaching a dwelling. At night the caravan halts, and its numerous cars are formed into a square, their white oxen pasturing around, under the guard of their courageous dogs. A fire is soon lighted in the middle of the square, and the drivers prepare their simple repast; after which, each disposes himself to sleep, wrapped in a coarse covering of felt. These indefatigable pedestrians are not the less excellent horsemen; and towards the north of the principality there exists a fine breed of horses, of a larger build than the Wallachian steeds, and much in request for cavalry remounts.

We can only speak here of that portion of the population in both countries seen by ourselves; but, according to the best informed and most credible travellers, it is among the mountains of both principalities that the most marked characteristics of the people are exhibited. The highlands abound in magnificent sites, the vegetation is rich, and the incidental features of the country call to mind the picturesque beauties of the Swiss Alps. Such descriptions made us regret that we had not leisure to explore these countries as far as the mountains, so well are they worthy of an attentive study; but when Moldavia is traversed, as was the case with us, in three days, and

in the midst of torrents of rain, but little inducement is offered to extend one's acquaintance with the country under so mournful an aspect.

That unruly race, the Tsigans, are found in great numbers in Moldavia, and here, as in Wallachia, they are employed as servants. They exercise, moreover, the avocations of cooks, blacksmiths and minstrels—three very opposite employments—in which they have no rivalry to fear from the inhabitants of the country. But were ever such cooks seen? Their appearance was quite enough to content us, and we made no further experience of their qualities. The religion of this people, which is entirely external, consists chiefly, as we have already stated, in the observance of the duties enjoined by the church. These duties, among which the foremost is abstinence, are entirely in accordance with the natural temperance of the Moldavians. Their ordinary food is a sort of porridge, cooked sometimes in an oven, at others in an iron kettle, and called by them *mamalinga*. To mix milk with this preparation, chiefly consisting of Indian wheat, is considered a step towards luxurious indulgence. Even the wealthiest peasants rarely touch meat; and it is only at the end of a long fast that they regale themselves in this way.

Before concluding these notes, we have only to say a word on the language of the people in the two prin-

cipalities, which is, with few exceptions, the same for both. This language which, in the midst of the corruptions introduced by emigration, exhibits traces of its Latin and Slavonian origin, had neither a grammar nor any alphabet of its own until 1735, an epoch rendered so remarkable by the enlightened attempts of Prince Constantine Mavrocordato. The Wallachian tongue is that spoken by the people: the Boyards have for a long time past made use of the modern Greek, which was introduced by the Hospodars from Constantinople, and formed the language of the court. At the present day the French language is very generally studied, and it would be difficult to find a family of any distinction in which both French and Italian were not spoken. A few words, transcribed from a good vocabulary, will give a notion how much the Wallachian language has borrowed from the Latin, that great well-spring from which so many nations have drawn:

Beautiful	Formos.	Laugh	Ris.
Begin	Incep.	Light	Luminar.
Bench	Scamm.	Ox	Boo.
Black	Negro.	Parent	Parinte.
Day	Dzio.	Table	Massa.
Finger	Degete.	Tears	Lacrimæ.
Fisherman	Pescator.	Where	Undè.
Game	Venat.	White	Alb.
Glass	Vitric.	With	Cum.
Good	Bounn.	Word	Verba.

Besides these words, which we have taken at random, there are a great number presenting a complete similitude with the Italian. It must be noted, however, that these resemblances, discoverable in the written language, would be difficult to seize as the language is spoken. The vicious pronunciation of the people, their hoarse and guttural utterance—arising from their habit of living in the open air—render it difficult for any but skilled ears to identify the words.

It was in collecting and arranging these notes that we employed the tedious hours spent in the quarantine. They are the result of reading, of our own recollections, and more especially of information communicated in the kindest manner. It is not given here as even an incomplete view of all that is suggested by the subject, which would easily furnish matter for a volume; but as a simple record of our impressions during a journey, unfortunately but too short. It will be seen that our eagerness to learn everything was admirably favoured by the kindness and influential position of our hosts.

But it is time that we should now, once for all, cross the frontier, and return to Skoulain, a village which, by virtue of the treaty signed at Bukharest, May 16-28, 1802, between Russia and the Porte, became the territory of the former. This treaty, as is already known, added to the empire the long province bounded on the east

by the Dniester, and on the west by the Pruth, by which streams, running almost parallel, it is enclosed. On the newly adopted line of boundary, each nation has established a quarantine, to supervise and purify all arrivals from the right bank of the Danube. The Moldavian lazaretto is established at Galatz, not far from the mouth of the Pruth; the Russians have placed their post of observation on the left bank of the same stream, at the point nearest Moldavia, and on a route, the communications by which, between that principality and Bessarabia, might, perhaps, with propriety, be left more untrammelled.

Heaven forbid that we should endeavour to depict in these pages the misery and weariness of that mournful captivity, which is called performing quarantine![9] The only consolation in such circumstances, is the consciousness of obedience to the law, that inestimable virtue, without which no society would be possible. Shut up at night in our cells, we became the prey of millions of enemies, harassing our slumbers, and by their sharp bites rendering us more sensible to the hardness of our pallets. Daylight came slowly on, as we waited with impatience the moment when, by special favour of the director of the lazaretto, we might take a bath in the river. Surrounded with keepers, and confined to a limited space, we were allowed, at a certain hour,

to indulge in this healthy exercise. The waters of the Pruth are said to possess wholesome properties, both for bathing and drinking; but we preferred using them for the former purpose rather than the latter, as we found, on tasting them, a strong brackish flavour, which rendered their use as a beverage anything but pleasant.

A watch is kept night and day over the wooden enclosure of the lazaretto; and the challenges of the sentries during the night, echoe and die away mournfully in the distance, in a manner by no means calculated to enliven the meditations of the captive. The deplorable heat which we experienced in the principalities, continued to oppress us at Skoulain. The burning heat of the morning was followed every evening by a violent storm, converting the yards, and even the interiors of the houses, into muddy and melancholy pools, which the next day's sun with difficulty dried up. During one of these storms, accompained with the incessant rumbling of thunder, we were informed that the lightning had struck a party of Cossacks, on their way to relieve guard: their long lances, had apparently served as conductors to the destructive fluid; out of five men one only was killed, the other four remaining paralyzed in parts of their limbs.

It must not be forgotten that we were on the soil of the empire, and that, even distant as is this frontier

from the capital, the kind commands which were to ensure us protection and support, had long since reached thither. Accordingly we experienced every indulgence on the part of the employés, compatible with the extreme rigour of the regulations. The permission to bathe, so much prized by us, was entirely owing to the attentions of the director, and of Dr. Ellisen, the medical officer of the lazaretto. I had also obtained, as a favour, that those of our wretched companions in quarantine—almost all Jews or Armenians—whose consent could be obtained, should sit as models to Raffet, at a suitable distance, and under the eye of the keepers. At length our captivity was drawing to a close. Early in August, an envoy from Count Woronzoff, governor-general of New-Russia, came from Odessa to meet us, and expressed the kindest intentions on the part of the Count, the sincerity of which a long correspondence did not permit us to doubt. This young man, one of the official secretaries of the governor-general of Odessa, placed himself at our disposal as a guide, for the remainder of the journey. On the 22nd of July (August 3rd), we were summoned to the receiving room of the establishment, to take the usual oath on departure. We swore, in the joy of our hearts, that we had infringed none of the sanitary regulations, and that the plague, from which we were free on entering, had not attacked us

in the interval. Our solemn asseverations were made, and sealed with a kiss on the New Testament, lying on the same table with a khoran for the Turks, and an Old Testament for the Jews.

The next day we crossed that fearful threshold, at which he who enters must leave behind him all the weakness and impatience of his nature. Four large horses, harnessed a-breast, whirled off our carriages with their joyous burthen, over the soil of Bessarabia. On leaving the village of Skoulain, the broad streets of which stamp it as Russian, we began to traverse a naked and barren region, intersected with valleys, lying between ranges of rounded hillocks, stretched in a parallel line with the Pruth. This kind of country continues for about five leagues; in the bosom of the valleys are generally found small pools, supplied by the rain-water, but as far as the eye can stretch, not a tree, not a human being, nor an habitation of any sort, can be discovered. Our postillions were the only specimens we could see of the new inhabitants of this country; how great, however, was the difference between their physiognomy and that of the Moldavians! Their high caps remind one, in form, of the top of a pilgrim's staff; and a coarse shirt, a belt, and loose pantaloons, stuffed into short boots of raw leather, complete their light and simple costume. Their type

of countenance is not so strongly marked as in the inhabitants of Moldavia, from whom they are, moreover, distinguished by whiter skins, a broad face, and light hair and beards. The drivers, as is the custom throughout the empire, are seated in front of the carriages—an arrangement which nearly cost some of us our lives. One of these men, being unskilled, and having lost all control over the eight young and spirited animals he was driving, threw up the reins in despair; the horses, finding themselves no longer held in, swept over the plain, to the great peril of the travellers, and of those who several times attempted to stop them.

After a few hours, the country assumed another aspect; there were no more monotonous plains, but a well distributed country, covered with fine trees, and surrounded by a horizon of distant mountains of the most beautiful forms. A fearful storm overtook us in the forest, where we were fortunate enough to meet with a post-house connected with the village of Bachmout. We took refuge in this wretched dwelling, from which we saw the lightning descend several times at a short distance from us, and still nearer to a number of oxen who were patiently weathering the storm. When the torrent of rain had ceased, we resumed our journey, and had soon taken leave of this picturesque country, but too quickly traversed. It was succeeded by a plain, or rather a vast pool of black

mud, stretching endlessly round us in every direction. Night fell, wrapping us in profound darkness, and still the same prospect presented itself; towards ten o'clock, an escort of Cossacks, armed with long lances, with a lantern at the end of each, told us that we were approaching Kicheneff.

To emerge from this pitchy darkness, from this sea of mud, and suddenly find ourselves in an apartment brilliantly lighted up, overwhelmed with pressing attentions and politeness, with the near prospect of a supper, formed one of those contrasts common enough in the life of a traveller, but which lose none of their charm by being frequently repeated. In the absence of the governor of Kicheneff, one of his relations and the chief of the police performed the honours of his vast and beautiful mansion. Couches were offered us, which with our quarantine reminiscences still fresh within us, felt like the finest down, and we were enabled to enjoy an interval of repose, well earned by the fatigue of the day. Our guide, the young envoy of Count Woronzoff, however, had the barbarity to rouse us from slumbers so delightful, at three in the morning, and kept us up for two hours waiting the arrival of horses. This time we set off to halt no more till we reached Odessa, that first and anxiously looked for point in our long voyage.

The same persons who had received us with so much

politeness in the evening, insisted on escorting us on horseback, or in droschkies, to a certain distance from the town. All that we saw of Kicheneff was the enormous space it covers; like Rome, it is built on a number of hills. The reason it occupies so wide a space, is the breadth of the streets, and the number of gardens surrounding the houses. There are still a great number of old and ill-constructed buildings, and primitive looking huts, but the new quarters are covered with elegant dwelling-houses, and public edifices of elaborate architecture. The brilliancy of the colours with which the monuments are painted, especially the domes and roofs, which are of a light green tint, present a singular appearance to the eye of a foreigner, and give a peculiar character to our cities, the novelty of which appeared much to strike my fellow-travellers. The public places in Kicheneff are immense; they are adorned with turf, and set round with posts; at the time of our passage, a considerable plantation of trees was going on, over a space intended for a public promenade.

A few vineyards may be seen on the hill sides in the neighbourhood of the town, but soon afterwards the country again becomes wild and uncultivated, and the more desolate from the effects of continued rain. In the low, swampy plains, we encountered numberless birds, the usual inhabitants of marshes, flights of lapwings, moor hens, and thoughtful looking cranes, stalking over

the marshes with melancholy gravity. On entering the steppe, we were leaving behind us immeasurable spaces covered with fine large plants, all in flower. The deep mire unfortunately protected them from the assaults of Dr. Léveillé, who, gazing on them from the back of the Wallachian carriage, was suffering the tortures of a botanical Tantalus. At last we beheld Bender. Not far from this place of strength we had passed over the desert soil where, on some unknown spot, Potemkin, one of the glories of our history, breathed his last. Having set out sick from Yassy, to proceed to Kherson, the prince was obliged to leave his carriage, for, like the Roman Emperor, he wished to die standing; and here amid these steppes died the death of a soldier, the man whose name alone was worth armies.

We did not enter Bender, a place which will long preserve the memory of Charles XII., that terrible vanquished enemy of Russia. From the post-house, we could command a view of this town, spreading out its regular lines of houses in the midst of a broad plain without a tree or garden, and hedged round by a number of wooden windmills, spreading out their six sails to the wind. The citadel, which stands apart from Bender, is of considerable extent, and encloses within its modern works the ruins of the ancient Turkish fortress; it is garrisoned by six hundred artillerymen. This place has lost a great deal of its importance since it has come to

be so far within the bounds of the territory. As a frontier town of the Turks, it was doubtless of great value to them in the midst of this open country, and near the river, which it commands.

The Dniester, as it flows before Bender, is of moderate width, but it runs between very steep banks, which render the passage of the river by a ferry, under the bastions of the fort, extremely difficult. To ascend the left bank, we required the aid of an encampment of Moldavian waggoners, established in the neighbourhood, and six pair of oxen, obtained from them, were a powerful assistance to us.

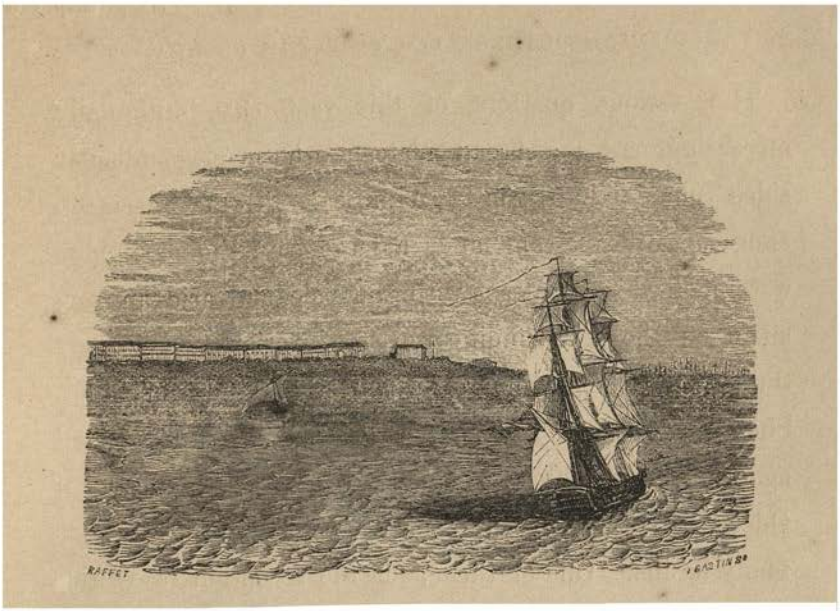
Tiraspol, with its citadel, and a large encampment of artillery beneath its walls, passed rapidly before our eyes; then came Koutcherhan, where a colony of German agriculturists is established; this is the first of eight agricultural communities which have established themselves on the soil of Bessarabia, implanting upon it, together with their methods of culture, their gentle manners and patient habits, and even the very names of the towns of their native land. Thus, towards evening, we passed through Strasburg and Mannheim, where the sound of the German language reminded us of other countries—not more fertile, certainly, but more thickly inhabited, since the growth of the population is such as to render emigration necessary. These German people appeared contented with their lot; for the land,

in these virgin steppes, repays with usury the labour bestowed upon it. Bessarabia is making rapid strides in the path of industrial production. Already rich in grain—not only beyond its own wants, but beyond any amount of importation anticipated—this province has sought in manufactures a new channel for its resources. The government fosters this tendency by special immunities: thus, the distillation and sale of brandy and spirits, which throughout all the provinces of the empire are the exclusive privilege of the government, are in Bessarabia permitted to the producer for a limited period. The manufacture of beet-root sugar has also recently arisen in this country; and such is the richness of the soil, that this root, so devouring elsewhere, is unable to exhcust its resources. Its vigour is not, however, abused; for the space is so large, that it is long before a second crop is called for from land which has already yielded produce. The fuel employed is a mixture in use throughout Southern Russia, consisting of chopped straw and cow-dung stirred up together, and dried into cakes, which in the summer time are seen covering the walls. Almost all the houses are covered with this singular coating, which is removed in the winter time.

Besides the German colonies, we came across several Moldavian caravans encamped for the night, according to their accustomed stratagetic arrangements. The benighted pedestrian who should approach these nomadic establish-

ments would deserve our pity, for he would be in great danger of being devoured by the fierce dogs performing patrol round these square battalions of cars.

Night had long fallen, and interminable delays detained us at the end of each stage. Notwithstanding that two estafettes had been dispatched, nothing was prepared; there were no horses; and Jewish rapacity, never neglecting an opportunity of levying contributions on the traveller, overwhelmed us with the offer of services, which, when paid for, were never realised. Accordingly, it was not till we had spent the night in the midst of a plain, where we were several times imbedded in the mud, that we approached the capital of New Russia. Before we could perceive the town, we felt on our faces, heated with travelling, the smarting effects of the sea breeze. At last, as the first beams of the morning sun appeared, we took possession of a magnificent hotel, bearing the name of Richelieu; a name of which, from the extreme thoughtfulness of its hospitality, it is not unworthy.



CHAPTER V.

ODESSA.—THE SOUTHERN COAST OF THE CRIMEA.

THE first aspect of Odessa is worthy the reputation of this great city; the young and flourishing capital of New Russia could not be more fitly heralded. Surrounded to a remote distance by immense steppes and endless deserts, Odessa appears before one like a land of promise, a long-desired oasis; and its walls are entered with the same feelings of joy as are experienced on reaching port at the end of a long sea voyage.

The various quarters of this vast city, still daily increasing, cover a broad plateau, whose perpendicular sides plunge into the Black Sea. From its steep eminence, Odessa commands a large bay, the dark blue waters of which contrast with the pale and arid appearance of the surrounding coast, invariably enveloped throughout the summer in whirling clouds of dust. Sheltered from the southern gales, but ill protected against the parching winds of the east, the port of Odessa is formed by three moles, which divide it into as many basins. One of these, for the reception of vessels in quarantine, is overlooked by the walls of the lazaretto and the batteries of a fort; the two others admit the ships of the Imperial navy, and trading vessels not coming from a quarantine port. The bottom of this bay offers good anchorage for ships of large burthen, but they are much exposed during gales from the east, and especially from the south-east. These terrible winds drive the impetuous waves into the bay of Odessa with a fury which nothing can withstand; a succession of these storms continually sweep across the Black Sea in the direction of its longest diagonal.

The city of Odessa is planned with regularity, as are the generality of Russian cities; it is carefully built, but the finest buildings occur in those quarters nearest the sea. All that part which faces the shore wears an appear-

ance of grandeur and opulence. The long and majestic terrace overlooking the sea, is lined with public edifices, hotels, and stately mansions, but to seize the full effect of this rich assemblage of buildings, Odessa should be entered from its port. It is as though this queen of the Black Sea had reserved all her splendours for that shore, breathing with intelligent souls, whereon the waves flowing from Asia incessantly dash their foaming heads. The cliff we have spoken of, is not less than eighty feet in height; on its summit, along its whole extent, is planted an avenue of young trees, with their branches arching together; in the centre of this promenade, and in the midst of a crescent of fine mansions, stands a bronze statue of the Duc de Richelieu, a monument of the gratitude of the city which owes so much to his creative genius. From the foot of the statue descends a gigantic flight of steps, already far advanced towards completion; when finished, it will connect, by steps one hundred feet wide, the grand terrace with the lower quay, and beneath these steps, which are to be supported by a series of open arches, gradually rising in height, the various carts and conveyances going to and from the port will freely pass.

After contemplating this magnificent spot, if you explore the rest of the city, you will find but a very few buildings, and those scattered at distant intervals, likely to remind

you of the grandeur of this favoured quarter. Broad streets, carefully paved, and planted with rows of acacia trees, traverse the length and breadth of the city, crossing each other at right angles. A theatre, a number of fine churches, spacious squares, bazaars, and a few rich-looking shops attract the attention, in the midst of a number of houses too humble in character for such splendid streets.

That portion of the road reserved for pedestrians, is broad enough to render the traffic easy at all times, even in the quarters most frequented, morning and evening, by the busy and the idle. The more crowded portion of the city is that adjoining Richelieu Street, the finest and most populous street in Odessa. In numerous shops along this street are spread out for sale the varied produce of every country in Europe, assembled thither under the fostering protection of the free port of Odessa. Showy sign-boards, with inscriptions representing every language of Europe, bear witness to that unrestricted freedom of trade which has made the fortune of this new city. The streets are filled with numerous droschkies: these kind of equipage, as useful as they are light, perform immensely long distances. At Odessa, the same customs prevail as are observed in all the southern countries of Europe; the morning is devoted to business, and the middle of the day to

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DROSCHKI AT ODESSA.

repose. This habit, which the heat of the climate seems to dictate, gives a melancholy and deserted appearance to the city during a great part of the day; in the evening, however, outward signs of animation again break forth; the theatre is much frequented, and the cafés and clubs are crowded. There the nobles assemble, further on the merchants,—Turks, Armenians, Jews even; every class has its place of meeting, and in each of these resorts, open to quiet conversation, the long pipe of the east spreads its perfumed clouds over the assembly.

Odessa, henceforth, was become our head-quarters, our point of departure and of rendezvous, during the distant excursions we were about to make into these remarkable regions. Our arrival had been expected, and we were received with the most perfect politeness by all the persons to whom the governor-general, Count Michael Woronzoff, had been kind enough to commend us on his departure.

The governor-general, who was in haste to proceed to the Crimea, had left the city two days before our arrival, but not without leaving us, together with a most pressing invitation, all the necessary instructions for joining him immediately. We were animated with the strongest desire to visit this southern coast of the Crimea, replete, as we were told, with every species of charm, and where the noble and wealthy nobleman who governs these

countries has created, within the last few years, the most elegant villegiatura imaginable. Thanks to this wholesome impulse, the wealthy inhabitants of Odessa go every year and spend the summer under the mild sky, amidst the streams, pleasant shades, and magnificent prospects of the ancient Taurida. Odessa—exposed as it is, without the least shelter, to the sea winds—without, from the commencement of summer, a cool or a green spot —inspires one with a deep longing for the shades of the country. A hot, burning dust, driven in clouds before the wind, penetrates even into the interior of the houses. To protect themselves in some degree from this parching climate, the inhabitants retire in vain to their dwellings, surrounded with numerous plantations, in the vicinity of the city, called khoutors. The drought spares not these young artificial woods; the loamy soil beneath the trees cracks, and becomes as hard as stone; so that scarcely do the few sickly leaves by which vegetation is manifested in these steppes afford the most meagre of shades. What a charm, then, must it be, to seek a refuge beneath the cool foliage of the century-old trees of the Crimea, listening to the sound of limpid cascades, and gazing on a landscape which Italy herself would not disavow! Such was the picture which we heard repeatedly drawn; and every one appeared so truly enchanted with this beautiful Taurida,—so

general was the eagerness to repair thither,—that we too resolved no longer to delay complying with the pressing invitations of Count Woronzoff. It so happened, that we were just in time to take the steamer which was to start on the 10th, and convey to Yalta the *élite* of the society of Odessa.

In the meantime, each devoted himself to the studies and scientific researches—the objects of our voyage. My companions, faithful to their mission, investigated the nature of the soil upon which the great city was built; carefully noted the zoological varieties of the country, and gathered, in scattered spots, the few specimens of the flora of the steppes which the sun had not dried up. Raffet enriched his portfolio with all the picturesque incidents which the varied population of the city brought beneath his notice: Jews, Karaïms, Moldavians, Turks, Russians of the new and the old country, with their characteristic beards—all these striking types were transferred to the leaves of his already well-filled sketch-book. I, on my side, collected a few notes relative to the country, and in particular to this city, whose history is as yet of so early a date, that a mere glance at the past is sufficient to place before one all the phases of its development. The research is one of undoubted necessity, if we would explain the causes which have raised Odessa to such a degree of prosperity,

with a rapidity which has astonished Europe; if we would divine in what manner this new portion of the empire has been enabled to take advantage of every favourable circumstance;—if, in fine, anticipating the future, we would form an estimate of the destined position of this beautiful colony, already designated the Marseilles of the Black Sea, and offering, in fact, more than one point of resemblance with the ancient Phocian colony. To do this, became from the first, the object of my especial study.

On the promontory where the fortress of Odessa and the buildings of one of the finest lazarettos in Europe now stand, might be seen, a few years before the commencement of this century, a little Turkish fort, commanding on one side the sea, on the other the desert: Hadji-Bey was the name of this fortress; and the petty structure, perched like a gull's nest on the parched, barren cliff, was governed by a pasha. At this time, Potemkin was extending his conquests over all those vast regions which now bear the name of New Russia. This prince instructed Admiral Ribas to take possession of the Turkish fortress, and it was soon subjected to the conqueror's yoke. The Empress Catherine II. having shortly afterwards conceived the project of erecting fortresses upon the new frontiers of her empire, Hadji-Bey was marked out as one of the

points in this line of defensive works, between Ovidiopol, which was to guard the mouths of the Danube and Tiraspol, destined to command the course of the Dniester. In 1794 the three fortresses were erected simultaneously, and the citadel of Odessa rose over the ruins of the old Mussulman fort of Hadji-Bey. A year had scarcely expired, when already numerous settlers, attracted by the favourable position of the spot, and encouraged by the protection afforded by its ramparts, had marked out a town, or rather an encampment of merchants, upon the plateau where Odessa now stands. Admiral Ribas, the governor of the new military establishment, succeeded in inspiring these adventurous traders with sufficient confidence, to persuade them to establish themselves in this spot no longer occasionally as merchants, but as settled inhabitants. He thus became the first founder of a city which acknowledges three foreigners as the authors of its prosperity: a memorable example of the wise and hospitable views of a government powerful enough to employ profitably even the gifted exiles sent to it by Europe.

Don José de Ribas, whose name remains inseparable from those of Richelieu and Langeron, was born at Naples, whence political events, which displace so many men and things, brought him to Russia; he entered the service of the imperial fleet in 1769, and

had so distinguished himself as to deserve the rank of admiral, when he was called to fulfil the glorious mission of endowing the newly conquered empire with a capital city. In accomplishing this task, Don José employed all the resources of a character equally prudent and energetic. A year after its foundation, the new town reckoned within its regular ranges of wooden buildings a population of 2,300 men and 1,600 women,—Greek, Jewish, and Bulgarian speculators,—under the protective superintendence of a Russian general, staff and garrison. It was at this time that the town demanded a name of its noble sovereign. The Empress, whose taste for history and serious studies are well known, deemed the point of sufficient importance to be submitted to the Academy of St. Petersburg; for her genius foresaw that here was the promise of no common-place provincial town, destined to vegetate on some remote shore, but a rich commercial emporium, towards which the ships of the Mediterranean would soon learn to turn their prows. Thus was Odessa named. It was found in the history of the ancient colonies of Greece, that not far from these latitudes there had existed a city called Odysossa, or Odyssos, and the new colony inherited this ancient name, recovered from the poetical record of the ancient Greek bard.

In the year 1796, Odessa assumed the attitude of

a city, well aware of its power and dignity. Its first care was the establishment of order; after order, would succeed trade. Accordingly, as soon as it had organised a police, it erected an exchange; and trade soon became the moving spring and bond of union among this people, composed of elements so various. In that year eighty-six ships had already cast their anchors beneath the walls of Odessa, and Ribas was urging with vigour the completion of works indispensable to a maritime port for the reception of mercantile shipping.

At this conjuncture, the empire lost its sovereign, the immortal Catherine, whom one of the greatest geniuses of the eighteenth century had dignified by the title of "great man." The Emperor Paul took the reins of the state; but under the new Prince, Odessa fell into neglect, and its development was for some time checked. Ribas was re-called to St. Petersburg, Rear-Admiral Poustochkin being appointed in his place; and to all appearance the views of the Emperor were not like those of his august mother, favourable to the new settlements on the Black Sea. However this might be, Odessa endured, though not without difficulty, the consequences of the neglect into which it had fallen. At the end of 1797 its population amounted already to 5,000 souls, distributed among 400 houses.

Among this population, so exclusively devoted to

commerce and exchange, no attempt had yet been made at production. Not a manufactory had been established—or rather, we mistake—one single manufactory did exist; and it is a curious fact, that in the infancy of a city which has become prosperous in maturity, this manufactory supplied what in those days was an indispensable commodity: powder—hair powder.

The eighteenth century was now drawing to its close, amidst threatening tempests, and even Odessa, scarcely beginning its career, and with every right to fancy itself safe from the effects of the storm, felt the commotion which agitated Europe. The new city had not yet found favour in the eyes of the sovereign, and its inhabitants resigned themselves to their lot, hoping for better times in the future. It is curious to follow, as they are traced in a work on this early period of its history, by M. Skalkofsky, a distinguished writer of this country, the numerous respectful, but persevering attempts of the inhabitants to obtain the privileges and liberties, the objects of their dearest wishes. They were never weary of laying their humble and unceasing petitions at the foot of the throne; praying, at one and the same time, for a grant of armorial bearings to their city, for immunities such as Reval and Riga enjoyed, and for the freedom of her port. Of all these favours, solicited with so much eagerness, they obtained only the armorial bearings.

These were inaugurated with the most pompous ceremonies, and amidst every mark of the most lively gratitude. Soon after, the supplications of the city commenced afresh.

The people of Odessa, like a true people of traders, thought to seduce even sovereign majesty by a present, and apparently in those days a rare one. An envoy was dispatched to St. Petersburg, carrying with him, as a homage from his faithful subjects of Odessa, three thousand of the finest oranges that could be found. The present was received, the Emperor graciously expressing his acknowledgments, and immediately the importunate demands for monopoly and freedom were again urged. Odessa received them back, torn up, with no other answer than that such a request was absurd.

A day at last came when the persevering efforts of this rising people were crowned with success. Prince Gagarin, President of the College of Trade, as the minister of that department was called, interceded with the Emperor Paul in favour of his subjects of New Russia. The works in the port of Odessa were resumed, the necessary establishments completed, and the lazaretto founded on the same spot which it now occupies. As it had befallen the colonists more than once to suffer from a scarcity of grain, all exportation was suspended; the establishment of reserved stores became the object of

particular solicitude, and under this salutary system, so strongly called for in this case, prosperity again resumed its progressive march. This took place in the first year of the century, and with each succeeding year, the rise of the city became more rapid and more certain. The Emperor Alexander, on ascending the throne, had manifested an interest in the remote provinces of the south, and had admitted them to a community of laws with the rest of the empire. This was another pledge of the future definitive incorporation of these countries, and the new order of things was soon attended with fruitful results. Odessa beheld the arrival of a reinforcement of Bulgarian settlers, attracted by the privileges with which, from day to day, the new city was being endowed; and soon after, it was effectively exempted from all taxes for twenty-five years; freed from the burthen of finding quarters for the military, by the construction of several barracks, and presented with a grant from the crown of the entire territory, which it possesses at the present day; one-tenth of the customs' revenue was appropriated to the construction of works connected with the port, and other additional benefits favoured the development of trade, and of the population. Henceforward, its progress was rapid; the transactions of trade in 1803 involved millions of roubles; continual additions were made to the city, which was spreading out into the granted territory, and it was

under these circumstances that the happy choice of a new governor led to the foundation, on an imperishable basis, of that greatness and wealth which was shortly to signalise the southern capital of the empire.

Armand-Emmanuel, Duc de Richelieu, had the honour of connecting his name with the fortunes of Odessa, and for the city itself, the advent of this enlightened governor, endowed by nature with all the high qualities which constitute a founder, was a benefit worthy of eternal gratitude. Arriving as an *emigré* in Vienna, at the time when the disturbed state of his country rendered it dangerous for those bearing a name connected with the monarchy, the Duc de Richelieu had met with the most distinguished reception from the Emperor Joseph. The war in Turkey, so valiantly conducted by the illustrious Potemkin, inspired the French nobleman with the desire to serve under such a general. He at once signalised himself as so brave a soldier, that he was presented, beneath the walls of Ismael, with the cross of St. George, and a sword of honour. Attached to the person of the Grand Duke Alexander, before that prince became Emperor, the Duke reappeared for a short time in his native country, then no longer disturbed by the spirit of revolution, vanquished by the firm will of Bonaparte, than whom no being in Europe better understood the value of that powerful word — authority,

but unwilling to accept the offers of the new master of France, Richelieu returned to Russia, where he was invested with the rank of lieutenant-general and the governorship of Odessa.

At the period when the administration of this city was confided to M. de Richelieu, its population amounted to nine thousand souls, among whom there were as yet no more than forty-four workmen. Eight churches, a hospital, and more than a thousand houses or huts had been built, and yet the want of workmen was so imperiously felt, that the first care of the new governor was to endow the city with artisans skilled in all the most essential crafts. Every department of the administration being under the controul of one head, and every branch of the public service equally an object of regard and vigilance, the city had nothing to do but increase and flourish. It was at this period that several new and important benefits were conferred with a lavish hand by the Emperor Alexander, on the city of his adoption. The lowering of the custom-house duties, by one-fourth, attracted to the port an increased number of ships; instead of one-tenth, one-fifth of the total produce of this branch of the public revenue was appropriated to the works of the port. A large grant was made to the lazaretto, the garrison was reinforced, and two great annual markets established. At the same time a tribunal

of commerce was organised, and a school was opened for the youth destined to a commercial career; the breeding of merino sheep was encouraged, and the free grant of lands by the city to speculators in this branch opened a new and fruitful field for the increase of private wealth. Ease, which is the constant companion of industry and order; well-being, and the refinement which succeeds it; all the minute details of home-life, which in fact comprehend all civilization, established themselves by degrees within these fresh-built walls. The picturesque ramparts overlooking the sea, naturally invited the inhabitants to the relaxation of a walk, and thence they might contemplate, with a satisfied and hopeful glance, the present and future condition of their city. Following the example of the governor, every one devoted himself to plantation, to which the Duc de Richelieu attached a well-grounded importance; and though the nature of the soil has militated against the development of vegetation upon a large scale, considerable service has been rendered to the city by the importation of certain varieties of the acacia, which have imparted to the arid and burnt soil of the surrounding steppe some degree of shade and coolness.

Agriculture, beginning to be more skilfully practised, exhibited in 1805 results of sufficient magnitude to allow Odessa, at the solicitations of the western provinces,

then afflicted by a dearth, to export 5,700,000 roubles worth of corn. The war which shortly after broke out in central Europe acted, in the first instance, unfavourably on the operations of trade, but the course of events was such, that at a later period Odessa derived advantage even from a state of things which was fatal aud ruinous to so many nations. In the first place, a considerable body of Italian merchants sought a refuge from the system imposed upon their country, by emigrating into New Russia, bringing with them their capital, and their talent for commercial affairs. At the same time, Odessa, taking a fortunate advantage of the political situation which closed the Mediterranean to the trade of the East, drew to its port, and received in transit, all the merchandise which the state of war drove away from the Dardanelles. This accidental deviation in the current of trade brought a profit to Odessa of no less than two millions of roubles. Everything, in short, flourished and increased in this fortunate city, which was no longer satisfied with its purely useful establishments, its institutions for merely commercial ends; like all other capitals, it desired to sacrifice something to the arts of peace, for the tumult of war was now expiring far from its walls, and their active inhabitants. Architecture, the passion which first seizes an enriched people, then came into great honour; and several remarkable monuments towered proudly above

its humble dwellings. The new fashion had soon its favoured quarter; even a theatre was built—that luxury of idlers—and on its stage, in the absence of any national drama, were performed Italian operas. The theatre was erected in the neighbourhood of the exchange, as though to bring in conjunction the laborious origin of this people, and the relaxation to which a long and toilsome career had entitled it.

In the midst of this prosperity, in 1812, the plague for the first time visited the city, carrying away two thousand inhabitants! Scarcely had Odessa recovered from this terrible calamity, than it was wounded in its dearest affections by the unexpected retirement of its illustrious governor, its guardian genius, summoned back to his native country by the restoration of its legitimate sovereigns, and the call of an ancestral name. After a paternal administration of eleven years, the Duc de Richelieu took leave of this city, of whose prosperity he was the living embodiment, carrying away with him the good wishes and regrets of a people who had grown great under his auspices.

More than one eye-witness described to us the painful scene which was enacted in the plain at the moment of separation. The Duke was escorted as far as the first stage by all the equipages in the city, the mass of the population having collected long beforehand at the place of

leave-taking. When the parting moment was come, that moment which was to sever so many affectionate ties, to crush so many hopes—when a whole people, eagerly pressing towards their benefactor, called him by his name, and sought to seize him by the hand, anxious once more to behold his features, to touch his garments,—the great and good man, the object of such deep regret, was unable to overcome the violence of his emotion; it was necessary to tear him away from the scene, and carry him to his carriage, in which he was rapidly whirled away. The remainder of his noble career belongs to the history of another country. In the midst of the duties with which the confidence of the King of France invested him, M. de Richelieu did not lose sight of the people to whom he had been as a father. Public gratitude has raised a durable monument to his memory, on the spot which his anxious care had embellished.

The statistics of Odessa during this period of eleven years, present a remarkable increase: without entering into any details, we will merely state that at the departure of the Duc de Richelieu, there were twenty-five thousand inhabitants in the city, distributed among more than two thousand houses, and the total amount of trading operations involved a sum of from forty-five to fifty millions.

A noble task was thus bequeathed to the succeeding

governor, and the imperial will giving a fresh pledge of its interest and solicitude for these countries, confided it to worthy hands. The Comte de Langeron, a Frenchman, as was his illustrious predecessor, continued his good work with singular success. An *emigré*, and the guest of Russia, M. de Langeron had given proofs of distinguished military talents in Sweden, Turkey, Holland and Corfu; everywhere, in fact, whither the fortune of war called him. After the treaty of peace, the Emperor, who was a judge of men, appointed the general governor of the city of Odessa, and at the same time governor-general of New Russia. By having these powers united within his own hands, the Count was enabled to embrace, from a higher point of view, the details of a plan which was to cement the interests of Odessa with those of the vast countries over which the new governor was now called to rule.

The general commenced his undertaking towards the end of 1815. Scarcely was he installed, when he received the visit of an august personage—and of this visit Odessa still preserves the happy memory. A prince of the blood royal, he whom Providence has since called to the throne of all the Russias, and who at that time was the Grand Duke Nicholas, came to judge, by his own observation, of a state of prosperity which he found not inferior to its renown. It was then no longer a city trying the

strength of its resources, but a powerful metropolis, which had won for itself an important rank in our vast empire. Henceforward, therefore, we shall not have to record the timid and uncertain essays of a body of adventurous merchants: we have only to note a rapid succession of vast and fortunate enterprises. In 1815, Odessa exported to the value of fourteen millions; a year after, thirty-seven millions was the figure attained under this head; in another year it had risen to forty-two millions. The imports during the same period varied from fifteen to nineteen millions. From that time Odessa became the vast granary receiving all the supplies of corn, for which Europe turns to it in times of scarcity; and as the vessels in its roadstead no longer offered a sufficiently ready outlet, it was at this period that the numerous store houses were built, constituting almost a new town, in which the harvests of this productive soil are garnered.

Thus were the fortunes of this new city originated and established. Henceforward it took rank among the most active and useful cities of the world. To crown its prosperity, the first and dearest wish—the wish of its commercial infancy—was gratified in 1817, when it was declared a free port. This measure was productive of the most important results to the city, opening a field for the establishment of manufactories, by the facilities

it afforded for the introduction of raw material to be employed in native manufactures, which would be sold under favourable conditions, in all the markets of the south.

In the first place a boundary wall was raised, within which this precious freedom should be confined without being stifled. The space to be enclosed was vast, and the construction of the wall lasted two years, and cost three hundred thousand roubles. It was not till 1819 that free entry was granted to foreign merchandise. Together with the commodities which constitute its material wealth, Odessa soon received those intellectual institutions which were still wanting. The Richelieu Lyceum was founded at about this time; and under its first director the Abbé Nicole, that benevolent guide of youth,—that second Rollin, who had come from France laden with all the knowledge which he knew so well how, with fatherly care, to render easy and attractive, it was, in a short time, attended by a considerable number of scholars. A botanical garden was opened. A Frenchman gave lessons in horticulture, and planted saplings—his essays at acclimatising meeting with frequent success. When war drove the Greeks from the Archipelago, a numerous colony of these noble refugees were received in Odessa. This disconsolate band brought with them to these hospitable walls, as is known, the remains of the patriarch of Constantinople,

and here, after having been profaned, they found a burial, at least Christian. In 1821 a communication was established with Constantinople by two packet ships, starting at fixed periods. The postal service from the east, which formerly ascended northward as far as Moscow, now passed through the new city. Odessa had its printing offices, its public journals, and its places of assembly for the transaction of business, and the pursuit of science or amusement. In order to become a seat of refinement and elegance, as well as a centre of commerce and industry, but one step remained to be taken—and this it accomplished with ease, thanks to a new governor-general, as skilful in administration as he is illustrious in war, a friend to all wise progress, and endowed with vast acquirements, firm and persevering in the pursuit of good, indulgent towards the weaknesses of mankind, one of the highest glories of his country—in one word, a perfect and accomplished nobleman: in saying thus much, we have named the Count Michael Woronzoff.

No career has been more pure and honourable than his. Born in 1782, and educated in England, where his father was Russian Ambassador, Count Michael Woronzoff commenced life as a lieutenant in the guards, and fought in Georgia and the Caucasus from 1801 to 1805, and during this period of daily warfare he displayed an amount of courage which laid the foundation

of his great military renown. In Hanover, Germany and Turkey, his distinguished qualities won him the promotion he so well deserved. As general-in-chief, during the French campaign, he stood in the field against Napoleon at Craon, and at the occupation of France, Count Woronzoff commanded our forces quartered in that kingdom. Maubeuge, his head-quarters, still preserves the memory of his noble conduct, ever distinguished by the strictest justice. It was in 1823 that the governor-generalship of New Russia was conferred upon him, and that he established himself in Odessa, fortunate city, to find, in its fifth ruler, all those qualities united, which had separately rendered illustrious the first founders of its ever increasing greatness.

Under the administration of the noble count, the progress of the city became more rapid; it was little to have proposed the task, the difficulty was in carrying it to completion. The external aspect of the city assumed a remarkable character of grandeur and good taste; the most suitable measures for insuring the public health were devised, composing a body of quarantine regulations, which may be held as among the wisest of any that have been framed for the purpose. Considerable sums were devoted to the drainage of the public roads, to the outfall of the sewage waters, and to paving and planting the streets with trees. The

vigilance of a well organized police, established order and security throughout the bounds of the city. Churches, spacious markets, educational establishments, a vast prison and numerous charitable institutions have marked this intelligent administration. That the reader may embrace at one glance all the prosperity for which the city is indebted to it, we will borrow from the work above mentioned the most recent statistical information which has yet been published relative to Odessa.

STATISTICS OF ODESSA

AT THE END OF THE YEAR 1836,

ACCORDING TO THE DATA OF M. SKALKOFSKY,

Author of the work entitled "The First Thirty Years of Odessa."

Odessa, 1837.

1. Superficies of the Territory.

Area occupied by Odessa, its two suburbs and the twelve villages depending from it	Déciatines	42,628
Country houses in the same territory		522
Vine plants over this surface, yielding eighteen thousand roubles		4,000,000
Public squares		8
Streets		60

2. Buildings and Public Works.

Churches	28	5,645
Government buildings	27	
Barracks	7	
Public gardens	4	
Ports of Quarantine; of entrance and clearance and of Platonoff	3	
Hospitals	3	
Asylum	1	
House of refuge for orphans	1	
Exercising ground for the troops	1	
Granaries	363	
Works and manufactories	34	
Private houses in the city	2,125	
„ in the two suburbs	1,570	
„ in the twelve villages	1,178	

3. Population.

	Men.	Women.
Clergy	52	50
Nobles and public officials	2,678	2,597
Retired merchants	18	60
Merchants in the first guild	127	102
„ in the second guild	172	295
„ in the third guild	1,455	1,484
Burgesses	18,511	16,876
Foreigners not traders	1,365	1,948
Colonists and citizens of Odessa	1,037	1,089
Tax payers of various classes	1,981	1,672
Retired soldiers	156	98
Total	27,532	26,271
Of both sexes	53,803	

Not including the garrison, and the students in the public schools.

4. Public Institution, Educational and Scientific.

Richelieu lyceum, with gymnasium	1	22
School for oriental languages	1	
Odessa district school	1	
Parishes	4	
Orphan asylum schools	1	
Commercial Greek school	1	
Lutheran	1	
Catholic	1	
Jew-boys	1	
Jew-girls	1	
Institute of noblemen's daughters	1	
School for young girls supported by the city	1	
Boarding school for boys	3	
„ for girls	4	
Total number of scholars, Boys	1,723	2,375
„ „ Girls	652	
Typographical printing-offices		3
Lithographic „		3
Public library		1
Museum of New Russia		1
Russian Society of rural economy		1

5. Commerce and Navigation.

		Roubles.
Imports in 1836	18,282,522 „	52,949,820 „
Exports „	34,667,298 „	
Shipping — Entered	1,252	
Shipping — Cleared out	1,221	

Companies, Marine Assurance	1	6
„ Black Sea Steam Packet	1	
„ New Russia „	1	
„ Sheep-breeding	1	
„ Horse-racing	1	
„ Artificial Mineral Waters	1	

6. City Budget.

Revenues.

Fifth of the Customs' revenue . .	1,388,968,22	1,786,119,34
Land and house tax, patents, &c. .	397,151,12	

Expenditure.

Public buildings, courts of justice, paving and lighting, &c	1,374,818,10

Several of these numerous establishments, bearing the impress of the highest order of wisdom, were visited by us, and found entirely worthy of their founder. First among our visits we must place that which we paid to the botanical garden of Odessa, because to this circumstance we owe the very efficacious and useful assistance afforded to our labours by M. de Nordmann. Attached to this establishment since 1833, M. de Nordmann superintends its management with that zeal with which he is animated in the pursuit of natural science; and on learning the object of our expedition, and the researches we were desirous of prosecuting in the Crimea, especially in the department of zoology, the ardour of an old traveller was

awakened within him, and I was fortunate enough to persuade him to accompany us into the Tauric peninsula, with which, by five previous excursions, he had made himself familiar. The collections in the department of natural history, made from this interesting country, and shown to us by M. de Nordmann, excited the enthusiasm of our naturalists to such a degree, that they already began to lament over the few days of rest we had spent in the luxurious indolence of this Asiatic Capua. However, from that day M. de Nordmann was enlisted in our expeditionary phalanx. Those of my readers who are lovers of conscientious studies, and will follow me to the end of the complete narrative I am about to give of our united labours, will certainly find in them wherewithal to justify my eagerness to associate with us this modest *savant*, and will doubtless congratulate me on my conquest in favour of science. The garden, under the direction of M. de Nordmann, is destined rather to form young gardeners than to bring up plants, to the cultivation of which both the climate and soil are equally unfavourable. After two or three years practical study, these students receive a certificate of proficiency, and obtain employment either at Odessa, where the lovers of gardening have not been discouraged by fruitless essays, or in the Crimea, where the nature of the soil is entirely in favour of any experiments which may be attempted

upon it. The attempts at acclimatising plants which have been made in the botanical garden itself, have been attended with satisfactory results, especially in the case of species coming from North America and Japan; but the most successful results obtained are in rearing a certain species of tree, of which the garden furnishes forty thousand saplings, to meet the demands of Government, and of private individuals. A director, a secretary and four master gardeners compose the staff of this establishment, to which an allowance of ten thousand roubles is made from the funds of the city. The expenses in excess of this sum are defrayed by the annual sale of the saplings, which are disposed of at a very moderate price, in order to encourage the cultivation and propagation of this species of tree.

A curious collection, which is at the same time of a botanical and industrial character, has been formed in Odessa, in the museum of Monsieur Fabre, chief of the governor-general's office. Every species of wood which the soil of the empire produces, will be classified in this dendrological museum. It already contains a considerable number of specimens, both in the rough and polished state. M. Fabre, who so intelligently employs the brief intervals of leisure left him by his occupations, treated us, during our interesting visit to his collection, with the greatest kindness and courtesy, and displayed a varied store of information.

In the hospital of Odessa there appeared to us much room for improvement, as regarded the good order and ventilation of the wards. The patients are, however, well attended; but it is to be regretted that this charity, from a regard to useless display, should not provide the sick with all the comforts which it otherwise might do. The surgical department, entrusted to the skill of Doctor Andriewsky, a young practitioner already celebrated, presented at the time of our visit several cases of frightful lesions in the most important organs. The hideous aspect of so much suffering, and the heat of the day, made me anxious, for my part, to bring the visit to a close, and all who were not, like Dr. Léveillé, attracted by scientific interest, sought elsewhere sights of a more congenial description.

The University of Odessa now embraces a large number of schools and colleges; all the governments of New Russia are, in their educational departments, subordinate to this establishment. The Richelieu Lyceum is said to turn out distinguished pupils; besides this institution and the private schools, there is a military school, a school for oriental languages, and one for the instruction of pilots. The Greek population of Odessa is more especially devoted to a sea-faring life and to fishing, but owing to the natural indolence of this people, these branches of industry have not yet received that development of which they are capable.

With roads abounding in fish, Odessa is nevertheless ill provided, and the prices are beyond the reach of moderate fortunes. The fisheries therefore should become the object of serious attention on the part of government. The same cannot be said with respect to the supply of fruit in this capital; the numerous fruiterers' stalls, sheltered by large awnings, remind one of the shops in Italy and Spain; but it is only for one kind of fruit that the people show a particular predilection, and one that is easily gratified, as large quantities of it may be procured for the smallest coin. This fruit, which retains its Tartar name of Arbouz, is the water-melon, or pastec of the southern countries adjoining the Mediterranean. It may be stated, without exaggeration, that during three months of the year more than thirty-thousand pastecs a day are consumed in Odessa. So long as the great heat endures, the people have no other food or beverage than is afforded by this spongy fruit; a practice contrary to sound hygienic principles, in a country subject at intervals to epidemic fevers and other acute affections.

The climate of Odessa is remarkably influenced by the situation of the city. Elevated above the level of the sea, entirely exposed from all quarters to the wind, which sweeps along the sands of the surrounding plateau, raising up clouds of fine dust, Odessa through-

out the summer, is parched with drought, and in the winter, from similar causes, enveloped in thick mists. Much has been said of the unwholesome nature of the air; but if we may judge of the public health by general appearances, the air has been wrongly impugned; it is presumable, however, that sickness generally makes its appearance with the occurrence of sudden changes of temperature, and in this respect Odessa is unfortunately conditioned.

Although the latitude under which it is situated (46° 30″) is generally temperate, this city is visited with a more rigorous winter than is observed elsewhere under the same latitude; while on the contrary, in summer, the heat may be compared to that of the torrid zone. This, as we have stated, results from the complete nakedness of the countries of which Odessa is the capital, and it should be added, that these unfavourable conditions are common to all the cities upon these endless steppes.

A more serious disadvantage for a city, doubtless destined to take a high position, is the scarcity of water, daily becoming more and more felt. In the rapid and extraordinary aggrandizement of this city, this pressing want of each moment of the day has not been sufficiently considered. But we have good reason to look hopefully to the future, from the zeal

of the enlightened and enterprising governor, in whose hands the destinies of this city are confided. Should God prosper the designs of Count Woronzoff, with the aid of science, water will flow from this arid soil. Odessa possesses a great number of wells, furnishing a wholesome water, which is capable of being rendered sufficiently abundant to satisfy all wants without cost; this problem is one involving the important question of public health, and the utmost exertion of government should therefore be directed to the solution of it. As regards fuel, hitherto wood has been, and continues abundant. The anticipations founded on the discovery of coal deposits in Bessarabia, have not been followed by results sufficiently important and certain to allow any dependance to be placed on these resources; but the zeal and perseverance with which searches will be directed by the authorities, will no doubt lead to some important discoveries, and it will be a fortunate day for the city when such a mine of wealth shall be at its disposal.

We have heard it remarked by sailors, that the position of Odessa, as a seaport, was not free from objection, and that both Kherson and Nicolaieff offered a safer anchorage to vessels, and a more natural outlet for the produce of southern Russia. There may be some ground for the first of these criticisms: nor is there need of much skill

in such matters to discover that the roadstead of Odessa, which is of the class called outlying, is exposed to the violence of the winds, and that the action of large breakers driven into the port must tend to accumulate banks of sand. As regards the second point, we are unable to express an opinion, firmly determined as we are to judge by our own experience; it appears to us, however, that the situation of Odessa does not furnish an unfavourable outlet for the produce of the southern countries. Long before its constitution as a free port turned the scale in its favour, the vessels from the west already sought to exchange their cargoes in its port. There must naturally have been some powerful inducement in the advantages presented by the situation of Odessa to attract, when but scarcely marked out on the site of Hadji Bey, the trade of the northern coast of the Black Sea, at the expense of Kherson. When we call to mind the struggle against the indifference of the metropolis, carried on for ten years, and that Odessa, in this struggle, would infallibly have perished, had it not had within it some powerful element of strength, causing it to triumph over every obstacle. The plains of Bessarabia and Podolia, and all those spreading eastward to the course of the Boug, possess no more natural outlet than Odessa, and they may, without prejudice to the trade of Kherson, bring into its store-

houses the wool, the grain, the leather, and the tallow, which form the principal exports of the country. As regards metals exported by the sea Azoff, whither they are brought down the rivers, or by the caravans from the north, it is easily intelligible that they should have adopted a port easy of access, and into which vessels were naturally driven by the same wind which had urged them through the straits of Azoff. The very circumstance which constitutes the safety of the roadsteads of Kherson and Nicolaieff, namely, the extreme difficulty of entering them, may, in certain cases, have proved prejudicial to the development of their trade.

But it is useless to devote more time to the examination of questions which at this, our first and brief visit to Odessa, we had scarcely time to enter into. Dazzled as we were by the polished society and all the elegance of a great city, lulled by the blandishments of a life of indolence and plenty, after fatigues and privations of every kind, we were not, certainly, ill-disposed to acknowledge Odessa as the natural and legitimate capital of a world newly sprung into existence. We were charmed by the gay appearance of the handsome houses, stretching along the elegant boulevards, and cared but little whether or not these architectural riches were due chiefly to the nature of the stone, so obedient to the chisel. We heard it stated, moreover, that instead of reposing on

a solid foundation, this beautiful city was built upon a frail bed of shells, whose agglomerated mass was crumbling by the effect of time. But in these precarious tenements, we found so cordial a welcome, so much refinement, so perfect and amiable a tone, so pure a taste and so delicate a tact, that everything conspired to fascinate us in a most agreeable manner. I hasten to come to the day when, in compliance with the kind solicitations of Count Woronzoff, no less than to gratify a very natural desire, we took passage on board the "Peter the Great," a pretty steamer, running during the whole season between Odessa and the three principal points of the ancient Chersonese, Yalta, Theodosia and Kertch.

Yalta was the point we were bound for; and on the same boat with us, a numerous suite was in attendance upon the Countess Woronzoff, on her way to join the governor-general, in his palace at Aloupka. On the 10th of August, at noon, in the midst of a crowd of spectators collected upon the mole to gaze on the brilliant and noble assembly on board the "Peter the Great," we put out to sea. To name all the persons assembled on board the steamer, would be to enumerate all the participators in a general conversation, gay, witty and animated, in the midst of which the first hours of our journey slipped away, favoured by magnificent weather. The ladies, accustomed to this trip of eighty leagues or so,

taking them to their country-houses two or three times in the season, appeared quite familiarized with the sea. The evening passed off in the most calm manner; but at sunset, a large red streak along the horizon boded a less peaceful night. The most experienced among the sailors failed not to make the remark, and they had the glory of being right in their prognostics. At night-fall the wind rose, and the sea washed continually over the somewhat low deck of our elegant steamer. This occasioned some confusion, and a great deal of sea-sickness, which even the most experienced of our fair passengers did not escape. At midnight, we descried the beacon at Tendra, situated at the extremity of a long tongue of land, so low, that even in the day-time it is lost in the sea-line. Some time after, we beheld the light of Tarkanbout on our left, and in the morning we admired all these things, so indistinctly perceived at night, as we passed in the midst of a fleet composed of four ships of the line and two frigates belonging to the imperial navy; they were performing evolutions near the coast of Crimea, which we beheld before eleven o'clock. A watch-tower, situated on the lower point of the Chersonese, marks the first point of the southern coast. The eye is soon after charmed with lofty mountains of so beautiful a form, that they might be taken for the natural barrier, which rises,

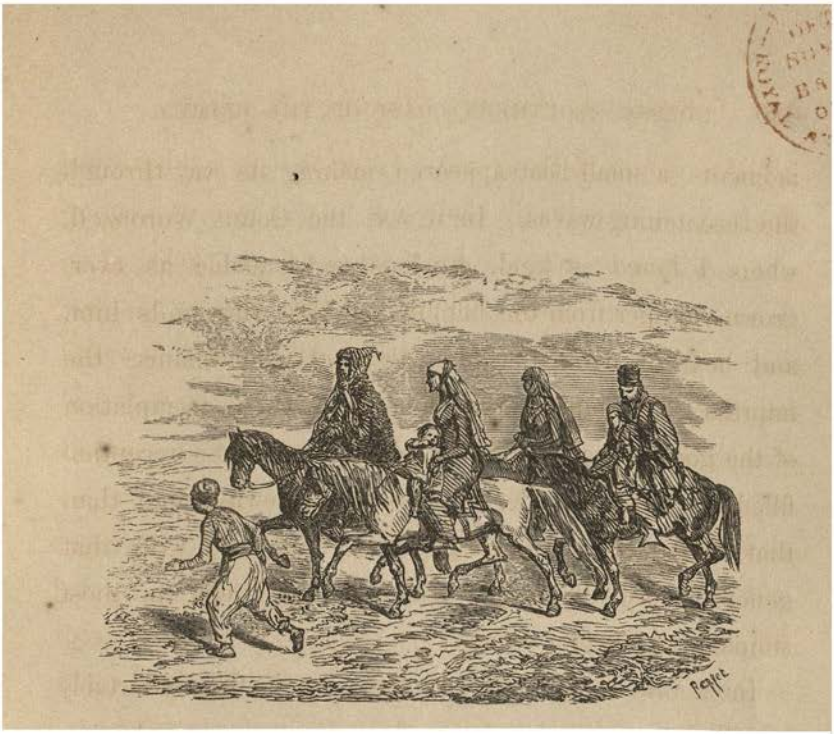
verdure clad, between the city of Genoa and the duchy of Lucca. After passing the first headland, we made rapid way, the sea still continuing rough, as we passed a number of picturesque sites, which our obliging companions could scarcely name quick enough. That immense promontory was Cape Parthenium. At the summit of this promontory,—not without its poetical associations, for here, according to all the ancient poets, was enacted the grand drama of Orestes and Iphigenia—in the furthest recess of that bay, and upon that high wall of rock, was the monastery of St. George, surmounted by a red dome, and the gilt point of its lightning conductor. Yonder was Balaclava, with its Genoese ruin, based upon a rock, and overlooking a narrow creek into which ships and fishing-boats enter as in a port. At this place, a basin, concealed from the view, offers a safe and secret harbour; no mast would be high enough to betray the presence of any vessel behind that screen of rocks. Farther on, Cape Aïa rises at the extreme southern point of the Taurida. This cape, which the Greeks called Kriou-met-opon, presented, doubtless, to the eye of the ancient geographers a resemblance to the head of a ram. As we proceeded, the coast became more and more picturesque. The aspect of the country is less rugged, and the high barrier of mountains recedes, leaving between itself and the sea richly-wooded slopes.

Kastropoulo, one of those useful establishments for which the memory of my revered father, their founder, will ever be respected, presented itself soon after, with its white houses looking over a tract of vineyard sloping down to the very sands of the sea-shore. At the sight of this domain, which was unknown to me, and which formed one of the noblest portions of my paternal inheritance—on beholding these recent endeavours of a good man to encourage, in this remote country, a branch of culture which may one day enrich it—I cannot find words to describe the emotion with which I was seized.

That portion of the southern coast which is inhabited by wealthy land-owners now spread itself before our gaze; here a palace in the byzantine style, that seemed sprung from some oriental dream, marks out its slender outlines against a mass of foliage, and unfurls from its summit our national banner. This was Aloupka, the centre of his magnificent assemblage of mansions; and even at the distance we were from the coast, we could distinguish the three cannon shots which saluted us as we passed. A light-house, standing on a hillock, marked the entrance to the Bay of Yalta, and the terminus of our journey. The unfavourable weather had caused us to arrive six hours later than the ordinary time. The "Peter the Great" anchored within a short distance of a jetty which serves as a protection to small craft only. In a few

moments, a small boat appeared, making its way through the threatening waves. In it was the Count Woronzoff, whom I found as kind, gracious and amiable as ever, grown younger from the happiness which surrounds him, and bearing upon his fine tranquil countenance the impress of a mind rendered happy by the contemplation of the good it has accomplished. The Count's reception filled me with gratitude, no less on my own behalf than that of my companions, who were welcomed with that generous cordiality which expresses itself under the most simple and natural forms.

In another moment we were on land, comfortably installed in an hotel conducted (vanity of human greatness!) by Signor Bartolucci, ex-basso-cantate at the theatre of Odessa.



CHAPTER VI.

CRIMEA.—TAGANROG.—NOVO-TCHERKASK.

FEW situations are so picturesque as that of the burgh of Yalta. Its port is more an ornament than a port. The new houses of this burgh are sheltered by the high mountains of the chain of Yaïla. Recently built on the very site of an ancient Greek town of some consequence, Yalta occupies the whole of the northern part of a very spacious bay, between cape Nikita on the north, and cape Aï-Todor

on the south. This coast, surrounded by beautiful landscapes, is perfectly sheltered on one side, whilst on the other it is exposed to the winds and heavy seas from the south-east; this is the case also at Odessa, and even when the winds have subsided, the waves in the bay continue agitated for some time, while the sands, thrown up from the bottom by the motion of the sea, tend more and more to contract an anchorage already sufficiently incommodious. The port of Yalta will therefore never be a maritime settlement of any importance; it is one of those temporary shelters, where sailors may cast anchor for a short time, but could not, even at an enormous cost, be made into a permanent harbour. However, as a mere *pied-à-terre*, for all the notabilities who during the summer people the southern coast, Yalta is a place of some importance.

With regard to public institutions, Yalta is not behind any large town; a custom-house, a post-office, architects, chemists, and a variety of shops, filled with everything to tempt greediness, one of the chief sources of pleasure in this country—nothing is wanting. The principal hotel is called *la Citta di Odessa*, and assumes all the dignity which distinguishes a respectable hotel from a commonplace inn. A house arranged with taste and appropriate to its hospitable purposes, a thing too rare in these parts, has been built by order of Count de Woronzoff.

The Count may in truth be called the host of these shores. In the long garden of the southern coast, he has allowed no pleasing detail to escape the visitor. The hotel once established, a major domo was required; it was then that Signor Bartolucci, the excellent *basso cantante*, quitted the boards at Odessa to create a new part for himself here, which he fills with equal satisfaction to the public.

The next day we were conveyed in the equipages sent by Count de Woronzoff to Aloupka. The road from Yalta to this beautiful residence runs along the shore of the bay, and rises by a gentle ascent to the first hills which command the sea on the west, whence reaches the base of the rocks of the Yaïla, which rises like a wall, eighteen hundred feet high, extending from Yalta to Cape Aï-Tador. This road is smooth, and so easy, that carriages can go at the utmost speed upon it. About midway up the mountains, you meet with a number of villas on the roadside, one and all constructed with the most tasteful fancy. Here a small Asiatic palace greets you, with discreet blinds and minaret-shaped chimneys; a little further, an elegant gothic manor, or one of those pretty English cottages covered with ivy, and surrounded with verdure, which long retains its freshness. Sometimes you find a dwelling built entirely of wood, fancifully varnished, and almost hidden

by its large verandas; here a group of white and graceful turrets, there a mass of ruins; everywhere trees, grass, sparkling water, garlands of hawthorn and beds of purple dahlias. The traveller advances thus along a road winding for a distance of fifteen versts by the side of the great ramparts of the Yaïla; on his left the glittering and boundless sea; at his feet, sloping down to the shore, verdant declivities covered with villas, beautiful vineyards, and winding pathways. Throughout its extent, the road is protected, like a drive through an English park, by wooden barriers painted white, which though slight, prevent the head and eyes from suffering the dizziness which so rapid a pace might occasion. Everywhere above head, are over-hanging rocks a thousand feet high, from the crevices of which an abundant vegetation makes its way, and waves in the wind. But who can attempt to describe these lovely views as they deserve. Amidst them I spent a brief interval filled with sensations of which it is utterly impossible to give any idea. On such occasions we see, we admire, but never for a moment dream of finding words to match the dazzling beauties of the scenes which charm us. Besides, I was not a fanciful, and still less a poetical traveller; my visit to Count de Woronzoff was for a serious and useful end: I was anxious to get to the provinces neighbouring the Don, where it will be remembered an important part of my expedition was to be established,

under the direction of M. le Play. How I longed to judge for myself of the justice of our mutual expectations, and to follow the progress of my companions in the study which was the object of their travels; for I had not come to Aloupka to indulge egotistically in poetical meditations, but to advance more rapidly towards my destination: I intended remaining but one day amidst the enchantments of this princely country life. I was resolved to make my escape on the very same evening from this kind hospitality; the amiability of the hosts; the splendour of the sky, and the magnificence of the country, what allurements were these to conquer, and how hard the struggle, when, on the other hand, we had to launch afresh into steppes without end. I must, however, do myself the justice to say that I did resist. To present my respects to Count de Woronzoff, and thank him, in my own name and that of my companions, could be done in one day, and in one day I did it. Count de Woronzoff, who thoroughly appreciates all good motives, understood the sacrifice I was making to duty. He welcomed my foreign colleagues with that gracious courtesy which wins all hearts to him; and from that moment he became a guide and protector to them. As may be imagined, under such generous patronage, I did not hesitate to leave them to follow their own inclinations in making arrangements for visiting every part of this interesting country,

as was their intention. The day passed but too quickly in the midst of a numerous and select party. After taking a rapid view of the rustic gardens and the magnificent oriental palace which the Count was finishing at this time, in the expectation of a royal visit, the glorious and well-merited reward of so many labours, I took leave of this noble lord, not without having received from him advice full of kindness to myself, and most courteous promises in favour of those I left behind. Night was already far advanced, when I resumed the road to Yalta, not however alone, for Count Galateri, aide-de-camp to the governor-general, in whom I soon found an obliging and devoted guide, had been attached to me for my rapid campaigns of the Don. I also took back with me to Yalta, in order to give him my last instructions, the individual who was to replace me with my colleagues; less experienced travellers than himself, heedless of the morrow, like all men of science, and full of the ardour of true artists, they needed a prudent guardianship; I had deputed Sainson, an inveterate traveller, to represent me as pilot to the caravan.

During the whole day, Aloupka, that privileged spot, had enjoyed a mild and warm temperature, but it was not so in the bay of Yalta: the wind had not ceased howling, and the swollen waves rendered it difficult to put out from shore to the "Peter the Great," in which my

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PASSAGE IN THE BLACK SEA. STEAM BOAT, " PIERRE Ier. "

carriage had been left. We should have had to wait a long time for a more quiet sea, and all delay was forbidden at this moment. The winds, said the captain—an old English sailor, who certainly knew something about it—the winds might continue violent for several days. My resolution was soon taken; I abandoned my carriage, which the steamer was to convey the next day to Kaffa, and I determined to post as far as this town in a *télègue*, a rude and swift national carriage.

There is so great a similarity between this Russian equipage and the Wallachian *caroussi*, which I have already mentioned, that a minute description would be superfluous; suffice it to say, the télègue is the best of the two. You are more comfortable on the straw, which is not spared, and abundantly fills the little box in which the traveller is seated. Two passengers may, if needful, find room on the mountain of cloaks and coverings heaped together in lieu of a seat, lending each other the support of a shoulder over the rough places through which the télègue is dragged, at the pleasure of two vigorous horses. In front of the machine, and with no other seat than a narrow plank, is perched the coachman, who never ceases speaking to his horses: to conclude, as a final distinction—and in this consists the incontestible superiority of the télègue to the humble caroussi of the Wallachians—a metal bell is suspended

to the fore part of the pole, and swinging to and fro with great noise during the whole time the carriage is in motion, constantly reminds the traveller that sleep would be dangerous on his perilous seat. When we arrived at a town, the bell was suppressed, out of respect for the ears of the citizens. It is in such rude carriages, however, that innumerable travellers, officers, agents, couriers, and government functionaries, continually traverse the empire, galloping day and night, crossing over thousands of versts in this uncomfortable position, and with no other shelter than a cloak, which serves as an equal protection against the sun, the rain, the dust, and the mud. I leave the reader to imagine what sort of a constitution you must be gifted with, to stand such frightful travelling. In less time than is necessary to describe this simple and primitive equipage, we had already passed the long and winding ways through the valley of Yalta, and were rolling with wonderful swiftness over the beautiful road cut along the side of the mountains which command the sea from a vast height, taking their course towards the east. We had started at noon, and at this season of the year, from the 1st to the 13th of August, it is easy to conceive the scorching heat we had to endure.

Under the blazing rays of the sun, our faces were burnt in less than an hour in such a manner as long

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to retain the traces. Nikita, with its beautiful gardens, Massandra and its rich vineyards, Aï-Danil, and the whole of this picturesque road soon vanished from our sight. We then came to the Aïou-Dagh. This immense promontory advances so far into the sea, that the road cannot be brought round it, and accordingly proceeds along a second range of mountains; here, heaven be thanked, are to be found the most cool and delightful retreats, large trees, beautiful forests, cascades, and all those happy and wonderful effects which artists prize so much. Italy itself is surpassed—surpassed by the Crimea: landscape painters must allow it. Alouchta, a semi-Tatar town of some importance, situated on the coast, terminates this magnificent line of shore. A considerable valley opens towards the sea close by, and from this spot we quit the coast to enter into the interior of Taurida, directing our course towards the central part, where Sympheropol is situated. At first for a considerable time our course was all up-hill, the road following the lower declivities of the Tchadir-Dagh. This is truly a majestic mountain; the highest of the Crimea. Its summit, forming a table, is a good land mark for the ships in the Black Sea: it also commands on the north the whole expanse of the steppe — that sea of dust, where the Tatar caravans salute it from a-far.

When our modest equipage had toiled up these

imposing heights, we found that the country became less and less picturesque, as we descended the reverse and northern side of the Tchadir-Dagh; vegetation becomes scanty, and soon ceases altogether on the skirt of the plains, where you meet with it no more, except at the bottom of ravines, and along the course of the Salghir. Nevertheless, nature here is still beautiful and rich. A few villages here and there are met with: that called Soultan-Mahmoud occupies a conspicuous place in my recollections, on account of a horde of gipsies, encamped in the neighbouring fields. It is impossible to obtain, without going out of Europe, a more complete idea of those wild tribes, which lend so much interest to the narratives of navigators. A few rags was all the whole tribe possessed in the way of attire, and the children and young people, who had been forgotten in the distribution of hereditary tatters, scarcely appeared any the worse clothed. In every village, also, troops of the most troublesome dogs in the world pursued us with inveterate obstinacy. At last we arrived at Sympheropol, the present capital of the Crimea, and the head-quarters of the government of Taurida. Our journey, though rapid, had nevertheless been a hard trial, and we eagerly and gratefully accepted the kind offer of M. Mourounzoff, the civil governor, to lend us his carriage as far as Kaffa.

Sympheropol, though so far from the mountains, is

not quite in the steppe. Its environs, intersected by a few ravines, where the supply of fresh water maintains vegetation, offers some favourable sites for the cultivation of the vine. The valley of the Salghir, extending northward, is especially remarkable for the beauty of its trees. The town is divided into two parts: first, the ancient Ak-Metchet of the Tatars, where we find narrow populous alleys, lined with shops of all kinds, classed according to the oriental custom; then the new town, where we already recognise the breadth and regularity of our own streets. The principal church, of elegant design but slight materials, adorns one of the spacious squares of the town. Another square, or rather market-place, situated in the centre of Sympheropol, is filled with a noisy medley of buyers and sellers. People of every nation are here gathered, talking every known language under the sun: we could fancy ourselves at the foot of the Tower of Babel. Greeks, Tatars, Armenians, Jews, and Russians incessantly pass and repass in the midst of merchandise and cattle, the headlong droschkies of the Russians, and the leisurely madgiars of the Tatars, drawn by a couple of enormous dromedaries, with double humps, and the most imperturbable aspect. This town is, from its position, the centre of all activity and enterprise. A number of new houses are being erected in the capital; an Artesian well promises an abundant supply of water; and a

few inns, recently established, favour the sojourn of travellers. To this day, however, the innkeepers, trusting to the custom adopted by the better class of Russians, of always travelling with their beds, have made no effort to provide visitors with any better sleeping accommodation than miserable sofas, scantily stuffed with hay, indiscriminately provided for travellers of all ranks, whom the fatigues of the journey, and the meagreness of the supper, equally dispose to sleep. In a few years beds will have found their way into these inns. We have seen more wonderful things in the way of progress than this.

At midnight, we left Sympheropol. The governor had lent us his carriage, and in it we were soon rolling over a smooth steppe. We quickly passed through Kara-Sou-Bazar, a large Tatar town, but the darkness prevented our observing its character; then, still keeping across the steppe, we reached the oriental side of the Crimea, and Kaffa, the half Genoese and half Tatar town, which with all its Italian aspect, reminding one of Bologna, yet preserves withal some vestiges of the Mussulman city. Kaffa appeared to us beneath the beams of the rising sun, enclosing within its ancient walls and turrets the ruined memorials of the power which it so long enjoyed. The port of Kaffa, called also by its ancient name of Theodosia, formerly rich and well-peopled, is now rarely entered, save by a few small vessels laden with the produce of the

steppe—the steppe which, uncultivated as it is, is yet incredibly fertile. The traffic which formerly gave animation to Kaffa, is in the present day transferred more to the east in the roads of Kertch, where the favourable position of the strait, uniting the Sea of Azoff with the Black Sea, attracts a numerous concourse of vessels. Theodosia is generally considered an agreeable city; it is chiefly populated by Greeks, but commerce has at all times brought a great number of strangers to it. Many Armenians and Karaïm Jews reside within its walls; the suburbs are inhabited by Krim Tatars, and another tribe of Tatars, the Nogaïs, with Chinese countenances, may constantly be seen driving their cars through its streets. We merely hurried through the public places, thoroughfares, and somewhat limited promenades of Theodosia. The "Peter the Great" had kept its word, and my carriage was landed on a far more commodious port; accordingly I hastened to pursue my journey with my constant companion in weal or woe, the Count de Galateri. We shared this time the comforts of an excellent coach, as we had done the previous night the joltings of the roughest of vehicles. We reached Arabat with unequalled rapidity, taking a direct line from south to north. The distance was performed in four hours; and as we turned our backs upon the mountains of the Crimea, our only horizon was

that of the plain, smooth as the sea which bounds it. This desert, however, is not so entirely deserted but one frequently meets caravans composed of cars carrying either to Kaffa or to Kertch the salt picked up on the shores of the Dead Sea, not far from the town of Pérécop. Occasionally, also, a Tatar is seen squatted beside his dromedaries, enjoying the delights of his pipe beneath their shadow, if a degree of heat which literally calcines the soil can be called such. In traversing these solitary regions, more than in any we had previously crossed, the road is left to the choice of the driver; these Tatars have, however, a marvellous instinct in discovering the direct line; and it is asserted, that even when the steppe is an entire sheet of snow, they still drive through on the right road, as if it were marked out.

A fortress, still defended by good outworks and a ditch, though its interior is in ruins, and a village, composed of ten houses facing one another, in the form of a street, occupying a space of ground which in central Europe would suffice for a town containing twelve thousand souls—such is Arabat. The fort is built on the sands between the Sea of Azoff and the Dead Sea, or Sivach, another name given to this great lake, but too justly meriting the characteristic epithet; a sort of natural dyke, starting from the very foot of these

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THE ANCIENT FORTRESS OF ARARAT.

ramparts, runs directly northwards, between dashing waves on one side, and on the other, stagnant and putrid waters, always emitting a horrible and poisonous stench. This narrow causeway is intersected towards the northern extremity by a canal about a hundred metres long, forming a communication between the two seas, and is rather pompously designated a strait. Several post-houses are established on the isthmus, which fortunately enable one to travel with terrific rapidity. The post-master of the place, stupefied by constant drunkenness, obstinately refused to assist us; and when we remonstrated energetically with him upon his intemperance, he told us it was the dull and tedious life he led which drove him to it. What could we say in answer to so good a reason? We endeavoured, by patience, to set this unfortunate man a good example.

It was midnight when we landed on firm ground at Yenitchi, beyond the strait, whence we were to direct our course towards the east, skirting at some distance the coast of the Sea of Azoff. Still the same endless plain lay before us, the same tedious and flat horizon vanishing in the distance, in the midst of which, how delightful a relief it was to chance upon a human being!

When the sun rises amid damp vapours, and gradually ascends over the plain, the deceptive phenomenon of

mirage frequently occurs, painting lakes, rivers and meadows on the refracting morning mists, transforming the smallest stem rising above the ground into a majestic tree, converting a man into a tower, and a baggage waggon into a gigantic palace. These illusions, so inducive to dreamy meditation, occupied our attention in the mornings, and at evening, in the fiery clouds of the west, we pictured black rocks, formidable peaks, and volcanoes pouring forth torrents of lava. As to the mid-day, it passed but heavily, in spite of constant movement, and the wide spaces we travelled over. At the stations alone we for a moment came in contact with living creatures. And what suffering did we not witness in these deserts, beneath those huts, where disease exists in its worst forms, and medical assistance can never penetrate! These people, labouring under the most dreadful diseases, await without help, and what is worse than all, without hope, the close of sufferings of which they cannot even calculate the extent—miserable examples of human patience and resignation! One poor old sick man, for whom we expressed our compassion, said, with honest and unaffected humility, that peasants were not sent into the world for their own pleasure. And certainly, if ever spot on earth were calculated to exercise the virtue of patience, it is this.

Our first day's journey did not elapse without an adventure. At one of the last relays, we found the post-house in

the greatest confusion—all the inhabitants, in a state of anguish and consternation, running backwards and forwards like people in the greatest distress. Our arrival was eagerly welcomed, and by every available voice at once we were asked, if by any means we could recall to life a dying woman? This was a serious affair. When introduced into the house, I was soon convinced that the dying woman, who was the post-mistress, possessed her vital energies to an eminent degree, and that if she was in any danger, it arose from having taken too copious a dinner on the previous day. The poor woman was, however, almost suffocating, and nothing but a sudden inspiration could save her. Fortunately, I was struck with such a medical inspiration. I had in my carriage a preparation of seidlitz powders, which I had always found productive of excellent results. I administered a powerful dose to the sick woman. You may easily conceive my anxiety, although I knew the remedy to be harmless. After waiting a short time, however, it had the desired effect, and relieved her overloaded stomach. We started again, overwhelmed with the blessings of the sick woman. No doctor of the highest eminence could have done better.

After crossing the Tolomak, a little river which discharges itself into Lake Molotchnoié, we were not long before we came to the territory of Nogaïsk. In these large plains we began to observe some signs of

cultivation. We here witnessed with our own eyes that destructive phenomenon, that Egyptian plague, the locusts, which we had heard of in Wallachia, without ever having encountered it. Imagine an animated cloud consuming everything before it; you might fancy, from the noise they make in feeding, that it was a flock of famished goats. Everything is devoured as the torrent sweeps along; herons, lapwings, and all sorts of birds of prey fall upon them, but in vain; scarcely do they make the least impression.

Nogaïsk is a capital; it is the metropolis of a foreign tribe—a tribe of nomadic habits, not yet thoroughly converted to the life of cities; this is evident, even in the structure of this new town, thatch and clay being the principal materials employed. Pull down the mosques, the bazaars, and some few miserable shops in the oriental style, and nothing would remain but a wretched village. The history of this town is sufficiently recent to enable one to trace it without difficulty to its origin. Towards the end of the last century, at the time when the mighty Empress Catherine conceived the idea of peopling her new and vast possessions in the south, a numerous horde of Tatars, said to be pure descendants of the race which Tchinghis-Khan drew in his train, still dwelt in the steppes of Astrakhan. Government, by useful concessions, attracted them towards the country they

now inhabit; but the frequent return of their vagrant propensities became a source of great uneasiness to their neighbours. A French emigrant undertook to civilize and instruct them in agricultural pursuits. This excellent person, Count de Maison, applied himself to the task with so much zeal and perseverance, that he succeeded in transforming these wanderers over the steppe, into disciplined colonists. He taught them how to cultivate the earth, which only requires labour; and when cultivated, it did not prove ungrateful. Then arose commerce, and with commerce a species of traffic which admirably suited the travelling predilections of the Nogaïs. Long caravans leave every year after the harvest, and convey the produce of these plains as far as Kaffa and Kertch. Scarcely can you distinguish this long train of waggons in the distance, before the frightful jarring sound of their creaking wheels reaches you, wafted on the wind. These rude waggons, constructed entirely of wood, without a single particle of iron, are drawn by two powerful dromedaries of truly gigantic stature. The heavy load bearing upon axle-trees rarely greased with a species of bitumen, produces a friction, the noise of which is perfectly deafening. The good Nogaïs rather like this harmony; and if you advise them to grease their axle-trees, they answer, "why should we? none but thieves are afraid to make a noise." Thus, amid these simple husbandmen, has Nogaïsk risen;

nor, as I have already said, is its prosperity as a town of a very flattering description : it has become simply a large inn for the convenience of Armenian or Karaïm traders, those dauntless merchants who are met with everywhere. Its worthy founder, the Count de Maison, had died a short time before our visit: we saw the dwelling he inhabited, and the little gardens he planted, without obtaining many followers; nevertheless, the good influences he has bequeathed to this people will hereafter bear their fruit. The Nogaïs are active and intelligent; passionately fond of a wandering life, they are true descendants of the invading race, which for several centuries overran the whole of eastern Europe, sweeping everything before them. To find the means of reducing to habits of obedience, and securing the progress and well-being of this newly civilized tribe; what a project was this to conceive, yet it has been accomplished.

We were now in the land of colonies, for several emigrant populations have brought their labour and industry into the neighbourhood of the Nogaïs. A colony of Memnonites, coming originally from Prussia, inhabit a territory bordering that granted to the Nogaïs; further on, and nearer Marioupol, cultivated lands, houses in good order, and immense stacks of corn, in the midst of acacias, point out the German settlements. It is a singular spectacle, to meet on the same plains

these honest Germans, with their fair complexions, and slow, lumbering gait, and the Nogaïs with their flat yellow faces, prominent cheek bones, and eyes slanting upwards at the outer corners. But even the progress of the Tatars cannot be compared with the truly admirable results obtained by German colonisation in these regions: I do not only speak of the large amount of grain produced—for this land refuses nothing to those who cultivate it—what I mean is, that the presence of the Germans has transformed these deserts into a country where every requisite of life may now be found; unfortunately there are not sufficient markets for their rich produce; consisting of excellent milk, vegetables, fruits, cattle and fine wheat flour. The colonists supply every thing, and stock the cities with provisions, an example one would wish to see followed by our peasants, who are generally too indifferent as to their material welfare. Meanwhile every year, the cultivation of the land is conducted on a more extensive scale and by superior means; the breed of cattle is improving, and the country growing more populous and fertile. It cannot be too frequently repeated, that the earth is productive only in proportion as labour is bestowed upon it; let the land be better peopled, and it will become fertile; such is the law of nature. Look at the waste lands in the finest countries of the world; they exhaust themselves in the production of a

useless abundance of vegetation, in which poisonous and noxious plants predominate; it is because there the hand of man has planted nothing. The earth requires to be watered by the sweat of man's brow.

In the midst of these vast steppes, which seem to invite those who find it hard to live elsewhere, I reflected how nobly and wisely might this wide space be employed which now lies desolate, this fertility which is lost, these riches neglected and shamefully wasted. How many nations, I exclaimed, are there condemned to see the best institutions become useless for want of adequate space. And should we not return thanks to God for the large portion which He has bestowed upon Russia, enabling her, without confusion, to class within her confines all the elements of order and future prosperity.

What regions better fitted for the efforts of modern civilization? where could we find land more fertile, a soil better prepared, or a more noble site for cities. Russia maintains Siberia as England does New South Wales, as a penal settlement, where turbulent spirits at open war with the laws of society can be removed to a distance; but it remains for us, perhaps, to find a practical solution to the penitentiary system, reconcilable with the amendment of culprits. Colonies adapted to this philanthropic end, seem to me the best calculated to

solve the problem, which has so long occupied the minds of philanthropists really deserving the name. An admirable trial lately made in Holland, pointed out to Europe the use which might be made of a well directed system of association for the cure of social evils. The experiment made with pauperism, by General Van-den-Bosch, an excellent man, offers a noble precedent. Assisted by the most insignificant subscriptions, the Dutch general's creative genius founded a model establishment, and by degrees numerous colonies, in which poor people, vagrants and orphans, were enabled to gain a livelihood by their work. And yet, be it observed, Holland was obliged to purchase its own lands, whereas Russia, on the contrary, can dispose of an entire kingdom. I thought how pauperism, mendicity and deserted infancy might populate these solitudes with great profit to society, to public morals, and to themselves; and perhaps, said I, some attempts might be made with advantage, for the amendment of those culprits whose offences are too severely punished by transportation to a distance; but all these dreams, which had beguiled the tediousness of the journey, soon vanished before the present reality, and I again beheld the steppe, which my imagination had for a moment peopled, as desert and as waste as ever. Soon we were in sight of Marioupol.

Marioupol possesses a commercial port, especially

remarkable for the activity of its traffic. To this place, as along the whole coast, grain is brought from the interior, and freighted in the Genoese ships, which have not forgotten the way to these seas, where the Genoese flag was formerly so powerful. The Italian ships bring to Marioupol articles manufactured at Chiavari, a small and very industrious town, not far from the Apennines, celebrated for its light chairs; and also diffuse the colonial wares brought to Genoa from England. Returning to the Gulf of Genoa, they fill their stores with the grain from the east, which merchants come to their ports to purchase, and which they are able to sell at small profits, as their navigation is the least expensive of any in the Mediterranean. It was seventy-three hours from the time we left Yalta to the time we entered Taganrog. The first associations awakened by this name, are those connected with the melancholy event which must ever unite the names of Taganrog and Alexander, that great Emperor, whose good faith and straightforward policy saved Europe, and perhaps the whole world. There he died, and Russia needs not the bronze monument erected to his memory, to remind her of her loss.

Taganrog is well built, and agreeably situated; the houses are of stone or brick, and their architecture pleasing. If it were needful to say more in favour of

this town, I could add that it possesses a theatre, which is frequently honoured by the presence of the most distinguished inhabitants of Taganrog. Here we find the features of that same French society changing its habits as frequently as its fashions, traced by the witty pen of M. Scribe, whose light comedies lose none of their smartness by translation in a foreign language. This port owes its foundation to Peter the Great: even in the time of this great man, the decrease of the waters of the Sea of Azoff had already been observed, and the site chosen for Taganrog was on the slope of a promontory, whose declivity seemed to promise that ships would always find safe anchorage there. At first, the commerce of the new port sprung up under happy auspices; but it was destined to meet with great obstacles. The Don, which rushes with great force into the depths of this sea, carries into it the sands which are drifted by the southerly winds upon the coast; and the waters round Taganrog are now so shallow, that vessels are unladen by means of carts, driven far out to meet the large boats, among which the cargoes are divided. As to the ships, they cannot approach within a league of the land; the greatest depth of this sea, which is daily being reduced to the proportions of a lake, does not exceed twelve or fifteen fathoms, the average being about two fathoms. These, truly, are great disadvantages.

At the beginning of this century, this port was visited by a sufficient number of ships to induce government to second the measures which were being taken for its improvement. Taganrog was now provided with a lazaretto, dispensing ships bound to its port from a stay of seven days, which they were before obliged to make at the straits of Kertch. As soon as the traffic increased, and the maritime establishment of Taganrog threatened to be insufficient to meet its exigencies, a custom-house and lazaretto were established on a large scale at Kertch. This occasioned an immediate division of the traffic, and Taganrog saw fewer ships enter its harbour, for no suspected merchandise now came direct to its port. The quarantine of Kertch allowed free passage for Taganrog to none but such cargoes as had been recognised to be free from suspicion. These alone came to the waters of the sea of Azoff to undergo the required purgation.

Such was the state of things when, in 1833, a measure was adopted which was most disastrous to Taganrog. Kertch was declared the only quarantine port. All ships visiting these shores were therefore now obliged to anchor under the walls of its lazaretto, and remain there eight-and-twenty days at least, and sometimes even thirty-two. From this time, the sea of Azoff was closed to all ships, except mere coasters.

Kertch thus became, in fact, the depôt and port of this sea, as well as of the northern port of the Black Sea. The produce of the colonies, of the northern coast, and even of the Don, came up in caravans along the narrow promontory of Arabat, to the only privileged port. Hence is it, that the little town we were walking through appeared deserted, and that in the conversations we had with several of the merchants, we observed their great depression. The only thing which now sustains the reduced commerce of Taganrog, is the transport of ammunition and military stores to the Caucasus; a considerable number of vessels employed in this special service plough the shallow waters of this sea, which is gradually dwindling away.

My impatience was great, and I was most anxious to reach the territory of the Cossacks of the Don, where I was to meet the members of my expedition occupied in mineralogical investigations, which they had already commenced on a large scale. I first fell into their track at Taganrog, and I eagerly followed it. I took the road to Rostoff without delay, for my time was limited; and after paying a short visit to our skilful engineers, I was to return as speedily as possible to Odessa, to be present at the military spectacles which were preparing at Vosnessensk with so much splendour as to attract the attention of all Europe. The Emperor

had determined to review the colonies of cavalry; the meadows of Vosnessensk, on the banks of the Boug, had been chosen for this imposing meeting of troops, and on all sides preparations were going on for this great event. But let us return to Rostoff, or rather the road to it, which is everywhere interspersed with tumuli.

This immense extent of country, deprived of all forest vegetation, is covered with those conical mounds, which are here called *khourghans*. Nowhere are these khourghans found so plentiful, and in such close contiguity, as in the plains of Kertch, and the ancient kingdom of Pontus; but great numbers are also found from the borders of the Don to those of the Pruth, where they frequently seem ranged at regular intervals, as though by design. After leaving Marioupol, I began frequently to meet with these curious elevations; they are generally from five-and-twenty to thirty feet high, and evidently raised by the hand of man. The earth of which they are composed has been dug from round the base of the hillock, for at the foot of most of them a depression is remarked, which in other cases seems to have been filled up. After a great many researches, it was ascertained that several of these khourghans contained the remains of the dead; but we must not from this conclude that all have been used for this purpose. Some authors, struck like myself by this appearance,

of an arrangement in right lines, generally observed in the large spaces where the steppe is flat and without undulations, have beheld here a stratagetic contrivance, conceiving them to have been land marks by which the hordes of barbarians, who have so frequently crossed the steppe, took their levels, and struck their line of march. This opinion is not contrary to common sense, nor opposed to the somewhat obscure traditions relative to these ancient monuments. It is not unreasonable to suppose that these khourghans were raised at every encampment of any considerable horde. They might serve as a shelter against the violence of the winds, and to protect the tent of the chief, or to station vedettes, or what not; even to serve as a tribune for the rude harangues of the barbarians, or altars on which their priests offered a sacrifice. If a considerable army advanced together, it is very natural to imagine that they might raise khourghans in such a manner as to render it easy for them to correspond by means of signals, or watch fires; and in case of a battle, or a natural death, the mortal remains were deposited in the khourghans, which was left as an imperishable monument, to which some name was given; and thus this plain, a desert to us, might to these men, of another age, have been peopled with memorials.

A peculiarity which distinguishes the tumuli we met with after passing Taganrog, on the banks of the Don,

the Tanaïs of the ancients, is that each tumulus is surmounted by a kind of post, rudely carved into the shape of a sphinx's head, and made of a very hard species of granite, not to be found in these parts.

Rostoff is washed by the Don before the waters of this river are divided, and distributed among the channels, which form its mouth. There is sufficient activity in this small port to excite attention for a moment. We were not far from it, when a grand deputation, consisting of four Armenians, mounted on capital horses, came to invite me to visit Nakitchevan, a colony entirely composed of people of their nation. I was the less tempted to refuse this courteous invitation, in consequence of Nakitchevan being precisely on the road I purposed taking: my visit was short, and very interesting.

Nakitchevan is a curious town, from its novel, and at the same time commercial aspect. It is situated on the banks of the Don, below Staro and Novo-Tcherkask; the old and the new capitals of the Cossacks of the Don. The intelligent and commercial population of this town would certainly deserve an attentive study. Less favoured than Rostoff, as regards its geographical situation, Nakitchevan is superior to it from the commercial genius of its inhabitants. From the remotest part of this almost unknown country, they keep up a constant intercourse with their fellow countrymen at Astrakhan, at Leipzig, and in Asia Minor. Situated

TYP J. CLAYE.

DEPUTATION OF ARMENIANS (AT BASTAFF).

as they are, in the centre of this immense triangle embracing their common interests, the clever Armenians have secured to themselves almost the whole trade of the basin of the Don. The numerous bazaars of Nakitchevan constitute it the emporium, which at times inundates with its merchandise all the markets in the country. These active merchants have not neglected to monopolise the produce of the vineyards of the Don, which they export to all the southern parts of Russia, under favour of a delusive label, which converts the somewhat rough wines of this soil into *Chateau Lafitte* and *Haut Sauterne*. Beautiful silks, and quantities of Eastern commodities, especially Persian, stock the numerous warehouses of this small town; the streets are clean, perfectly straight, and the houses in good order. We were received at the house of the chief person in the town, the *golowa*—a word meaning head, which seems to be the almost universal symbol of authority. Here we were treated with the utmost kindness; but the extreme bashfulness of the ladies scarcely gave us an opportunity of catching a glimpse of the elegant coronet of braided hair worn by them, and the tasteful design of their silk dresses. Shortly after having quitted this hospitable town, we made our entry into the capital of the Cossacks, the great Novo-Tcherkask.

From a distance the houses of this town, which covers a small hill, advancing like a promontory on the plains, remind one of a large flock of sheep grazing here and there over a large space. Novo-Tcherkask, whose name indicates a recent construction, has taken the place of Staro-Tcherkask, the old town. At first the old town was the capital, but it had been built on an ill chosen spot. In time, getting weary of the too frequent inundations to which the town was exposed, they resolved to establish it on a site out of the reach of all inundations. The new capital reared its head upon a kind of promontory, whose steep sides presented equal disadvantages perhaps, but of another nature. Novo-Tcherkask, however, soon became a very large town; but its immensely wide streets, its arid soil covered with dust, which almost blinds the wayfarer, and its small dazzling white houses, all combine to make it appear, at first sight, a tolerably insupportable place of abode. The Attaman Vlassoff compensated by the cordiality of his reception for the discomforts of his residence. This old and respectable officer displayed the most frank and hearty kindness towards us. We had scarcely partaken of a repast hastily prepared for us at General Berdaieff's, a Russian officer, employed by exception in the service of the Cossacks, as head of the staff, before we were off again, rolling along the road to Kamenskaia.

Kamenskaia is situated at a considerable distance from Novo-Tcherkask, on the high road from this capital to Voronége, and on the banks of the Donetz. I scarcely allowed myself time to stop here, but hastened on towards the little valley of Kamenka, where I was to find those persons I had come so far and through such dreadful roads to seek. I found effectually in those solitudes, works commenced by the French borers, to whom I had associated a certain number of workmen from our Siberian mines, to take part in these operations, and import the useful art of boring into our mountains. As to M. le Play, whom I was pursuing for the last two days with indefatigable perseverance, he had just gone to Lougane, where he was expected by General Count Saint-Aldegonde, serving in the corps of the imperial mines; a determined will, and the interest he took in the scientific and industrial questions then in agitation in this remote corner of the globe, had led the general to these parts. The zeal we all felt, overcame fatigue; rest was to be found at Lougane, and we were almost there; for the last time I gave the signal to depart. But there was now no longer any regular road traced across the plain, and to add to our troubles, deep ravines intersected the steppe, and obstructed our direct course. At the very moment I was indulging in the hope of soon reaching, without accident, the long-

wished for termination of my journey, the horses and carriage were carried away by a steep descent, and we were precipitated suddenly on the banks of the Donetz, where we remained imbedded in thick black mud; but even in this abyss our good luck did not desert us. Having come out safe from the half-buried carriage, I threw myself into a télègue, which happened to be near at hand, and alone for twelve hours, in spite of a dozen shocks sufficient to unhorse the most hardy Cossack, I arrived at Lougane at ten o'clock at night, when I was least expected. It required ten hours work, however, before my carriage could be got out of the mire in which it was buried.

I found myself now, at last, in the midst of this other section of my companions in fatigue, who, less fortunate than their comrades of the Crimea, were working in dull regions, and in a burning climate, the effects of which nothing could mitigate. Yet great labours had already been accomplished; a minute geological investigation of the soil had been carried out in the basin of the Don and on the banks of the Donetz; not a single valley of any importance, not a single ravine had escaped the indefatigable researches of our enthusiastic engineers, and the conclusion of these conscientious examinations had been, the opening of the borings I had seen on my road, and some others which

were to co-operate in the system of research concerted between us. I only remained two days in Lougane, to make arrangements for our future plans and further operations; this done, I proposed returning to Odessa by the most direct road.

At Lougane, where I made the longest stay during this rapid excursion, there is an imperial foundry, established to furnish the fortresses in the south, and the fleet of the Black Sea, with projectiles, cannons, and other articles in cast-iron, required by the establishments of the war department and the navy, in this part of Europe.

From the nature of the ores, and the character of the combustible minerals extracted in this country, it has not been possible, as yet, to fabricate cast-iron on the spot; and all that is necessary to the working of the foundry has till now been brought from Siberia.

The imperial foundry, however, is established on a scale worthy of the important office it will have to perform: a numerous staff, composed of officers from the mining corps, presides over the works of the establishment. Lougane had long been the head-quarters of M. le Play, and the persons he had to direct. The foundry also, which had not been forgotten, in the recommendations of which my expedition was the object, lent us a considerable number of workmen, to assist in our

operations. The persons who were already at work on the ground, in connection with the subject which occupied me, had met with the kindest reception at Lougane, for which they were truly grateful; and I saw, with pleasure, that friendships had been formed between my foreign explorers and the officers residing at Lougane. Fully satisfied with all I had seen, I left this little town on the evening of the 8-20th of August.

If I were only to give my own observations relative to the country of the Cossacks of the Don, which I had just crossed with such incredible rapidity, these details—as indistinct as the whirl which seemed to pass before my eyes during this bewildering journey—would certainly be of little value. But I may at least give the substance of my conversations, both with the excellent Attaïan Vlassoff, and with my kind and faithful cicerone, Count Galateri, who, tired to death as he was with the journey, still proved himself an attentive and useful guide.

The country inhabited by the Cossacks of the Don is a vast plain, through which that river flows from its leaving the province of Voronége to its emptying itself into the sea of Azoff. It includes also the mountainous district stretching from the borders of the Donetz to within the circle of the province of Ekatérinoslaff. Although subject to the dominion of Russia, this popu-

lation of Cossacks is governed by laws and customs peculiar to themselves. It appoints its own chiefs, who are called attamans, and chooses its civil functionaries. The only office to which the Emperor appoints, is the chief attaman, and this he has conferred on the heir to the throne, in order to consolidate, by the ties of honour and affection, the incorporation of the Cossacks with the great Russian family. The territory of the Cossacks is fertile, but badly cultivated. The soil, consisting of plains on a somewhat high level, is intersected by deep ravines, through which the rivers flow. Agriculture, fishing, and the breeding of cattle, are the principal occupations of its inhabitants. Nevertheless, in the midst of so many conditions of wealth, these people remain poor, in spite of the most precious gifts of nature, which a small amount of industry would suffice to render fruitful. The Cossacks have but one ruling passion, and that is the love of brandy. A soldier at fifteen, he wears the uniform till he is fifty, ready to obey every order—to start on service, perform escort duty, or carry dispatches. Few towns, but a great number of villages, are scattered over the wide plain inhabited by these people. Every village is called by the generic term of *stanitza*, without prejudice to any other distinctive appellation. In each of these villages there is a public establishment, in which the attaman devotes a certain number of hours

in the day to the affairs of the commune. The country is dotted over, besides, with *khoutors* or hamlets: these are composed of country seats, with their appended farm-buildings. The Cossacks are scrupulous in the practice of their religious duties; and their superstitious ideas lead them to treat all who profess another worship than their own as unclean heretics. Thus, in their communications with our workmen employed in boring, everything that had been touched by the infidels was passed through the fire. The ignorance of these people is very great; and it will be long ere any civilising influence can be brought to bear upon them. Poorly housed, ill clad, and eaten up with the most repulsive uncleanliness, the people of the most numerous class are altered in nothing from the Cossack of fifty years ago. These peasant soldiers are careful but of one point, namely—the cleanliness and order of their uniforms. This is rigorously enforced: they brush their clothes every day, but they never think of washing their hands.

On the 20th, Odessa was within 863 versts of us, and we resumed our march quite refreshed by our forty-eight hours' rest. The road, more diversified than at Bahkmout, presented several objects of interest. On all sides, we beheld those sphinxes of granite, so plentifully scattered over the steppe, at the foot of the khourgans. Ekatérinoslaff soon received us; it is seen in the distance,

stretching along the banks of the Dnieper, in a succession of pretty houses and gardens. This town, built, as its name indicates, in honour of the great Empress, is now the capital of a province subordinate to the governor-generalship of New Russia. Passing through it at a gallop, as we did, but little movement was observed among its inhabitants. We next reached Nikopol, and thence followed the course of the Dnieper as far as Berislaff, still driving through a plain bounded by numerous tumuli, and exhibiting at intervals the fertile results of an intelligent husbandry.

Of Berislaff and Kherson, I shall have occasion to speak hereafter, when I shall be able to describe them at leisure. I passed rapidly through them, and soon found myself in the broad and handsome streets of Nicolaieff, containing the first dockyard established upon these shores. Nicolaieff, less richly endowed by nature than the admirable harbour of Sevastopol, offers, nevertheless, a good roadstead, and possesses a spacious arsenal. After ferrying across the Dnieper, which is so wide that the passage lasts more than half an hour, we proceeded in the direction of Odessa, where I arrived at night, on the 24th of August, after an absence of a fortnight, during which I had travelled about 2,000 versts.

I had accomplished my visit, and returned to Odessa exactly at the time I had prescribed to myself. I had

now to prepare for a journey to Vosnessensk, a short but magnificent excursion. Such is a traveller's existence! a strange mixture of emotion, enjoyment and hardship; to-day encamped on the barren steppe—to-morrow extended on a soft couch, within the walls of a palace.

In the meantime, a portion of my companions were exploring the Crimea, and studying, by short stages at a time, the surface of that ancient peninsula, every town of which bears a name thrice consecrated—by mythology, history, and modern conquest. The narrative of their voyage of observation will fill the succeeding chapter.

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